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*Historical souvenir of*

*Oxford, N. Y.*

1867.



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# Grip's" Valley Gazette

VOL. V. NO. 11.—12 NUMBERS, \$1.00

ALBANY, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1897.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

... SOCIAL, PERSONAL, HISTORICAL ...

TRADE AND NEWS

EVERY COPY A VALUABLE SOUVENIR

## Historical

## Souvenir \* \* \*

OF

OXFORD, N. Y.

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PRICE, 25 CENTS.

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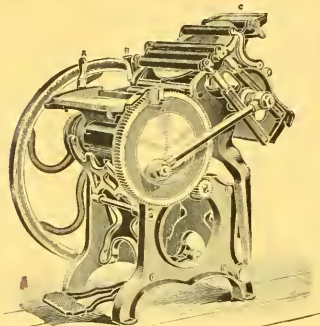


Photo by A. C. Lewis.

KENOTAH FALLS.

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Central Restaurant, C. E. Pr



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First National Bank Bg.

Clinton Street.

State Street.

Hotelkiss House

F. G. Clarke's Block.



Photo by Gracif.  
South Canal Street.

Mrs. Nowlan's.  
Leomis & Cowie's.

Wm. M. Miller's.  
Coville & Moore's.

E. M. Rider's

LAFAYETTE SQUARE  
Cole Memorial Fountain.

Washington Avenue

F. G. Clarke & Blue Stone Co's Office.  
North Canal Street.



# OXFORD, N. Y. AND VICINITY.

## ILLUSTRATED.

OXFORD, N. Y., is a beautiful village laid out in broad, shady streets intersecting at right angles, on both sides of the Chenango river, which flows through the center of the village. It is the second in commercial importance in the county and second to none in the social and educational advantages it offers. By means of two railroads it is connected with all important towns in the state; viz.: the New York, Ontario & Western and the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, competing lines running trains from Oxford direct to New York, 243 miles by the latter route, which is the most convenient. At Binghamton, 35 miles, are connections with the Erie, east and west; at Sidney, 17 miles, with the Delaware & Hudson for Albany and Montreal, and at Utica, 62 miles, and Oneida, 44 miles, with the New York Central east and west, while Syracuse is but a short ride and Oswego is reached on through trains in nearly the same time.

There are six churches and a large and thoroughly equipped Union school, the latter recently constructed at an expense of \$20,000, and provided with all modern conveniences. This place is noted for the numerous springs which supply a large number of residences with constantly running water. This is a rare feature which attracts the attention of strangers. In addition thereto the town has within the past year appropriated \$22,000 for the construction of a water system just completed, which is fed directly from springs and connected by a "Y" line with a reservoir for fire purposes, situated 200 feet above the level of the village, thus giving sufficient head to throw a stream over the highest buildings. There is also a complete electric lighting system, illuminating the streets with arc lights and the buildings with arc or incandescent. A gas company, recently organized, has just piped the village and is prepared to furnish cheap and adequate lights.

In and about the village are numerous eligible sites for factories, where branch tracks may be run in from the railroads. With two railroads bringing in coal from competing mines, the Delaware & Hudson and the Lackawanna, and with an abundance of water power, the village offers advantages to manufacturers which, including cheapness of power, are not surpassed by many inland towns of its size.

The leading industry is quarrying and dressing stone for all purposes. Rich veins of both blue and gray stone and flags of the finest quality are opened in several places along the hillsides on both sides of the village. There are also large banks of the finest building sand. Lumber of many kinds is dressed here and shipped to Binghamton and other places. Other industries include novelty and machine works, fruit baskets, extracts and the manufacture of cigars and teeth.

The retail trade is quite extended, through a rich dairy and agricultural section. There are many excellent sites for residences, including large tracts of ground within the corporation limits, which if placed in the hands of an enterprising real estate firm, for which there is a good opening, could be readily disposed of and would greatly increase the population of the village, now about 1600.

The residences are better than the average in small towns. Many of them are handsome in style of architecture, and are built on modern plans. The private grounds are tasty and well kept. The streets are in good order and through the enterprise of the citizens are sprinkled in dry weather. Some years ago several ladies of the village organized an improvement association. By means of subscriptions and public entertainments they raised money from time to time to improve the avenues and squares. Washington park, an oval of grass plats and walks ornamented with shrubbery and containing about five acres, located in the residential part of the town on the east side of the river, and Lafayette square, a large plaza in the business section on the west side, both of which are a credit to the village, as well as Fort Hill square, an unimproved park overlooking the east shore of the river, are in charge of the ladies' improvement association, which is vested with practically the same powers as a park board in the city. This association laid out and curbed a green sward in Lafayette square and put up the Cole memorial fountain, the gift of members of an old Oxford family of that name. The expense of the improvements in the square and bringing water down from the hills for the fountain was about \$1,000, which figure also represents the cost of the fountain. Society in Oxford is what one would expect to find in a village composed very largely of descendants of time-honored families who had the means to educate their children and who were possessed of those sterling qualities necessary to penetrate the unbroken forests and lay the foundation for a prosperous future. The people are hospitable and not clannish. Amusements of a high character are well patronized; barn stormers without a reserve fund invariably walk out of town. Between the ladies' improvement association, who give a course of lectures, three literary societies with adult membership, the work of which is ably described on other pages of this souvenir, and an opera house provided with a good stage and accompaniments, ample seating capacity and a competent manager, the social seasons are all that can be desired.

There is much more that can be said in behalf of a village like Oxford. There are the well-supported churches, in charge of earnest, capable and popular clergy, the young people's societies which









MADE FOR GRIP'S HISTORICAL SOUVENIR, P. R. BURKE, ARTIST.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF OXFORD, N. Y.



are active auxiliaries in the moral and social improvement of the community, the wide-awake citizens, of whom Oxford numbers many, alert to all that promises the advancement of the place, the many families of laboring men who earn good wages and are what are commonly called good providers, a largely manned and fully equipped volunteer fire department and a small but practical system of fire signals extemporized by using a calliope whistle connected with the steamer house, which rarely if ever fails to head the boys directly to the scene of fire.

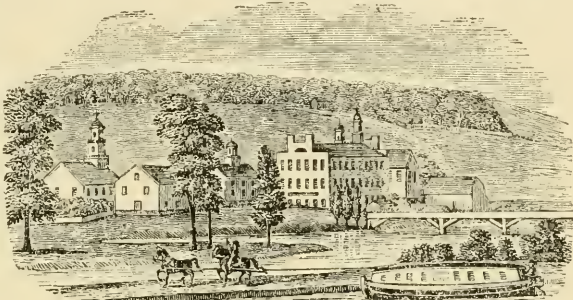
The town is also noted for the several fraternal societies, each of which includes a large membership and is in a growing and prosperous condition: such as the Y. M. C. A., with a large membership which promises very much for the social and moral elevation of the community, supported by a ladies' auxiliary, which is supported by the best people in town; the Masonic lodge and chapter, among the older lodges of that fraternity; the Red Men, which tribe has furnished timber for State officers of high standing; the Grand Army of the Republic, a flourishing post; a lodge of stationary engineers; the Good Templars; the A. O. U. W. and numerous other organizations.

A sketch of Oxford would be incomplete without reference in this connection to the Oxford Times, a weekly newspaper which is published and edited by men whose policy is that of supporting home enterprise first, last and all the time. This publication has invariably refused to accept advertisements of out-of-town and itinerant retailers who seek to compete with local merchants. This is a fact, strange as it may seem, which can be attested by

Yours Very Truly,  
"GRIP."

## HISTORICAL REVIEW OF OXFORD.

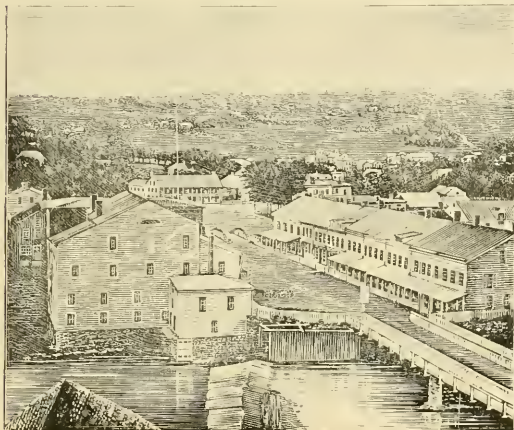
OXFORD was erected from the town of Jericho (now Bainbridge) Jan. 19, 1793. The county of Chenango was erected from the counties of Herkimer and Tioga March 15, 1798. On Nov. 1, 1683, the province of New York was created, comprising the counties of Albany, Cornwall now in Maine), Dukes (now a part of Massachusetts), Dutchess, Kings, New York, Orange, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk, Ulster and Westchester. Subsequently Ontario was erected from Albany, Montgomery from Ontario, Herkimer from



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—OXFORD, 1840.—FORT HILL HOUSE.  
From "Annals of Oxford," by H. J. Galpin.

Montgomery and Tioga from Herkimer, from both of which came Chenango, comprising eight towns: Jericho, formed Feb. 16, 1791; Norwich and Oxford, Jan. 19, 1793; and Brookfield, Cazenovia, Hamilton, Sangerfield and Sherburne, March 5, 1795. The site of the present village of Oxford was first settled in 1790 by Elijah Blackman, who came from Connecticut and squatted on the island in the Chenango river which has since attained the name of Cork from an incident in which it is credited with being the scene of a

duel when the principals unknowingly fired corks with which their pistols had been loaded by their seconds. This was comprised in a tract of land purchased by Gen. Benjamin Hovey, and known as "the gore," i. e., all that part of the present town of Oxford lying west of the Chenango river and at that time comprising 7,000 acres. Blackman was left in undisputed possession of his island home until Nov., 1790, when Gen. Hovey arrived from Unadilla and Blackman was induced to accept a hundred acres a mile and a half up the river, it being the purpose of the owner to adopt this location for the village to which he gave the name of Oxford, after his birthplace in Massachusetts. Daniel Tucker appeared in the spring of 1791, taking up fifty acres adjoining the Blackman farm, and was employed for two years succeeding in driving team for Gen. Hovey between Oxford and Catskill. In the



OXFORD, 1872.—NAVY ISLAND (WEST MAIN STREET).  
From "Annals of Oxford," by H. J. Galpin.

summer of 1790 the log dwellings of Blackman, Hovey and Tucker were the only buildings in Oxford. Before the close of the year, however, the community included John Bartle, Peter Burgot, Benaiah Loomis, Francis Balcolm, Eben Enos, John Church, Charles Hurst, William Wettenhall, John Buckley and Jesse Hamilton. Three years later the State road from Catskill to the west was completed, Gen. Hovey having the contract for constructing the section extending from the Unadilla river, at what is now Rockdale, to Cayuga lake near Ithaca. James Phelps is mentioned as coming to Oxford with Blackman, but he is represented to have left about 1791. Blackman and Tucker died here, the former in 1823 and the latter in 1845. Hovey went to Ohio in 1804, where he engaged with Aaron Burr and Gen. Wilkinson in a canal project which was defeated. Gen. Hovey was born in Oxford, Mass., in 1757. He served as deputy sheriff and was conspicuous in quelling Shay's rebellion. He served in the New York legislature and promoted the formation of Chenango county, of which he served as judge.

Lucy A. Balcolm, the eldest grandchild of Francis Balcolm, writes to THE SOUVENIR that

death, which occurred about a year ago. A great-grandson of John Bartle now lives in Guilford, and there are other descendants in this section. Peter Burgot removed to Albany county at an early date. His descendants still living here are Miss Helen Lobdell and Mrs. G. W. Godfrey. Benaiah Loomis died upon the farm on which he settled about 1835 or '40, and numerous descendants of the same name are still living. John Church settled on the farm now occupied by Mrs. R. J. McCall, where he died October 23, 1825. William Wettenhall, or Whittenhall the name used later, kept a tavern for many years two miles below Oxford. He died in McDonough, April 2, 1848. A great-grandson, Henry Whittenhall, the son of Uri Whittenhall, who conducted the Chenango House in Greene for many years, is living in that village, and he has a sister, Mrs. Brown, living in Utica. John Buckley settled in the western part of the town on the Smithville line, on the farm where he died, which is now owned by his grandson, William P. Buckley, a builder living in this village. Mrs. Charles A. Bennett, jr., Miss F. A. Baldwin and Mrs. Phelps, living in the town, are grandchildren. Jesse Hamilton, first settled in the village, and afterwards removed to



Photo by Graeff

MAIN STREET BRIDGE, FROM BELOW THE DAM.

Mr. Hovey's daughter, Ruth, married Uri Tracey, but that most of their descendants are widely separated. Francis Balcolm, she writes, was born in Sudbury, Mass., in 1767. His father, Henry, served in the battle of Bennington under Gen. Stark, and his great-granddaughter, Lucy, now has a brass candlestick which he picked up on the battlefield, the souvenir of some retreating British officer. Francis Balcolm came to Oxford in 1791. He superintended the construction of the State road from Oxford to Rockdale. His was the first deed of a farm in Oxford, which was owned by Henry Balcolm until 1831, when it became the property of Mr. Austin Hyde, who sold it to Mr. W. A. Harrington, the father of Mr. A. D. Harrington, the present owner and occupant. The descendants of Francis Balcolm very likely represent the oldest family in Oxford to-day. He died August 8, 1850, and his wife September 25, 1866. John Bartle settled on a farm near the mouth of Bowman's creek, where he opened the first tavern in Oxford. This place was owned and occupied by Irwin D. Bartle, his great-grandson, until his

death, which occurred about a year ago. A great-grandson of John Bartle now lives in Guilford, and there are other descendants in this section. Peter Burgot erected power grist mills, the first in the town, during the summer of 1792, on a creek which bore the name of Hovey's mill creek. Among those mentioned as coming to Oxford that year was Moses Bennett, who ascended the Chenango river in a canoe, accompanied by his sons, and settled on a tract of land two miles square, four or five miles north of the village, for which he paid a shilling an acre. Mr. Bennett contrived a hand-mill for grinding grain, which not only supplied the wants of his own family but of those of many others who brought their grist to him from far and near. Descendants continued to live on this farm until about two years ago, when J. Howard Bennett, a great-grandson, removed to Bainbridge. Samuel Lyon and brothers also came up the river in canoes that year and settled upon what is now known



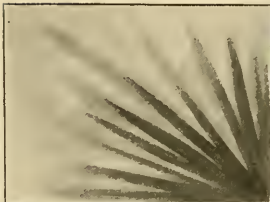
as Lyon brook, where they purchased three square miles of land at a shilling an acre. Their descendants hold an annual reunion, on which occasion it is shown that many are still living, though widely scattered. The Lyons also erected grist and saw mills about that time. Uri Tracey a Presbyterian clergyman and a missionary to the Indians, came to Oxford as early as 1792, though just about what time is not mentioned. On March 22, 1798, he was appointed sheriff, the first to hold that office in the county, in which position he served until 1801. In 1803 he was one of the four members of assembly from this county,

and in 1805-7 and 1809-13 was member of congress. Upon the formation of the county the records were kept at Cazenovia by Samuel S. Breese, who was succeeded as county clerk by Mr. Tracey, appointed August 13, 1815. The basement of the

residence he then occupied, which was on the site of the present dwelling of William E. Dunn, on Albany street, served as the county clerk's office during his term. He was appointed judge of the county July 8, 1819, and was president of the third

state constitutional convention—1846.

He was the first postmaster in Oxford, which in 1802 was the only post-office in the county and was called Oxford Academy. James and William Padgett were among the first settlers here, probably in 1792. William was killed in a dead-fall set for bears. James died November 24, 1848. Samuel Miles Hopkins is another settler of 1892, who was the first lawyer in Oxford. Among those who are prominently mentioned among the earliest settlers after this year are Jonathan Baldwin and Theodore Burr, architects, millwrights and bridge-builders, Solomon Dodge, who settled on the farm now occupied by A. and E. P.



F. G. CLARKE'S RESIDENCE.

H. W. CLARKE'S RESIDENCE.

Photos by Graeff.



J. R. VAN WAGENEN'S RESIDENCE

E. L. GRAEFF'S RESIDENCE.

Photo by Burke.

Photo by Graeff.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

Photo by Graeff.

Morse, John Holmes (revolutionary soldier), Eleazer Smith (revolutionary soldier), Zopher Betts, Stephen O. Runyan, Peter B. Garnsey, Ephraim Fitch, a descendant of one of the Mayflower passengers, Amos Havens, Emmons Locke, Anson Carey, Nathaniel Locke, Asa and Levi Sherwood, Daniel Sill, John McNeill, David Shapley, Jared Hinckley (revolutionary soldier), Jonathan Bush, Daniel and Wm. Dennison, Wm. Gile, Capt. Samuel Farnham, Josiah Hackett (revolutionary soldier), Ezekiel Olds, Erastus Perkins (erected the Park Hotel), Ebenezer Root, Edward Loomis, Major Daniel Throop, Col. Benj. Throop (served under Gen. Washington), Epiphraas Miller, Nehemiah Smith, Gideon Mead, John Tracey (afterwards lieutenant-governor of the state), Daniel Shumway, Benjamin Butler, Joseph Cook, Ransom Rathbone, Frederick Hopkins and Solomon Bundy, sr. Other conspicuous settlers, including the Balcolms, Millers, Mygatts and others, are mentioned elsewhere in these pages.

On June 17, 1793, William Guthrie, Hezekiah Stowell and Jacob Enos, the first justices, met at the house of Benjamin Hovey and elected Elihu Murray, town clerk; James Phelps, Ebenezer Enos and John Fitch, assessors; Zachariah Loomis, collector; Peter Burgot and Joshua Mercereau, poor-mas-

ters; James Phelps, Asa Holmes and Nathaniel Locke, commissioners of highways; Abel Gibson and James Mitchell, constables. The first town meeting was held the first Tuesday in April, 1794, and Ephraim Fitch was elected supervisor and E. Murray town clerk. It was voted "to give three Pounds Bounty on Each wolf Kitch and Kild in this Town in addition to what Bounty the County Gives."

The census of the town taken in October, 1795, reported 150 heads of families. The town expenses for the year 1799 were as follows: Defraying county charges, \$193.81; for wolves, \$30; collector's and treasurer's fees, \$15; school, \$59.43; total, \$331.24.

"The Diamond City."—There is a legend that, "once on a time," soon after Oxford was first lighted by electricity, as the evening train from the north on the O. & W. railway pulled into our station, a passenger, a lady of course, exclaimed in raptures: "It is the diamond city!" The twinkling lights in the valley inspired her. We, of Oxford, should appreciate and proclaim this title. It is suggestive of beauty, even the rarest beauty. Moreover, this progressive town deserves such a cognomen. For there are many things here to attract the traveler, and even the man who appreciates the influence of the beautiful when he is seeking a home. Seen from the hill-side where our lady traveler looked over our quiet village, there are many happy and luxurious homes, the spires of churches that announce not rivalry but Christian fellowship, business blocks that tell of prosperity, a noble school building—worthy pattern for any village in the Empire state; parks and shaded streets, fountains and springs of purest water. And when we come down from the hill-side and mingle with the citizens of Oxford, surely the distant vision is confirmed. Good-natured, well-dressed men and women, bright boys and girls abound. And as the years lengthen our acquaintance, we are more and more pleased with the evidences of thrift; and these citizens of the "diamond city" have those intellectual and moral qualities which make a town attractive as a home. Here sweet charity never makes her appeal in vain. And culture shows its presence in many homes and on every street. It has been said that



Painted by the "Times."

THE OLD ACADEMY.

civilization is expensive. And it is true. But it pays good returns. Stanley found no highways in Africa—only almost impassable forests. The palaces of Africa were primitive huts. The white man toiled over hundreds of miles without a comfort. But when he met the people who called all this wilderness home, what were they? Savages! Sometimes harmless, sometimes brutal, but always low down savages. They knew little about taxes, nothing about even the humblest home life, such as one meets in the poorest home in Oxford. Good roads, light streets, pure water, comfortable houses, furnished as well as our prosperity allows; these are what give our children the blessings of civilization. It is in such a town that we find the temples of Christian faith, in room of the hideous places dedicated to idolatry. It is here that education flourishes, instead of ignorance and filth. God bless the "Diamond City," and make it a blessing to the generations of all future time.—C. B. PARSONS.

temporary set of books. James W. Clarke, its first President, an old merchant of great strength of character, and a man of rare ability, served 14 years, until his death in 1878. The bank was a success from its inception, paying a dividend before the close of its first year, and without interruption at each semi-annual period since, that of July last numbering 66. It has paid its original shareholders (only five of whom survive) four times its present capital in dividends, and taxes equal to fully a quarter of its aggregate dividends. In 1894 the present commodious and architecturally beautiful building was erected, which is a monument to the enterprise and liberality of the present management. Its plans were drawn in the office of State Architect Perry, and personally supervised by him. Its appearance as illustrated in this Souvenir speaks for itself. Its present Directors are J. R. Van Wagenen, Pres., F. G. Clarke, Vice Pres., W. H. Van Wagenen of Rome, N. Y. (manufacturer at Palatka, Florida), C.



Photos by Graeff.

The Lobby.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

President's Office.

Banking Dep't.

**First National Bank.**—The organization certificate is dated Feb. 10, 1864, No. 273 in order of its establishment; the national banks recently organized being numbered up to 5,090. Its original capital stock was \$70,000. Original Board of Directors:—James W. Clarke, Frederick A. Sands, John Ray Clarke, Peter W. Clarke, Wm. Van Wagenen, F. G. Clarke, Wm. H. Van Wagenen. Subsequently, by an enlargement of its capital stock, a new element came into the management, represented in the Board by William Mygatt, Henry L. Miller and Gerrit H. Perkins. To the energy and public spirit of the late John Ray Clarke was largely due its establishment; he having been instrumental in soliciting subscriptions to its stock in the face of opposition and discouragements. He also opened and formulated its

D. Hayes (banker at Clinton, N. Y.), Wm. M. Miller, Gilbert J. Parker and H. W. Clarke. Mr. J. R. Van Wagenen has been connected as Assistant Cashier, Cashier and President with the bank from its establishment, having occupied the latter position for the past twenty years. He is progressive in his ideas, and has made the bank well known among bankers throughout the country by the acquaintance he has formed in connection with the American Bankers Association, whose meetings he has generally attended from its organization, and of which he was made Vice President for New York State, at Atlanta in 1895. The bank is also a member of the N. Y. State Association. Mr. Clarke, the Vice President, is well known for his enterprise and business management, being President of the F. G. Clarke Blue Stone Co., of which he was the originator, and





DR. C. H. ECCLESTON.

which has developed into a great industry. Jared C. Estelow, Cashier, has been nearly 15 years in its service, and has occupied his present position since Oct., 1889. He is a member of the Board of Education, and active in all that concerns the best interests of the locality. The institution is popular in the community, and notwithstanding its position as the only bank in Oxford, no one seems to feel that any advantage has ever been taken of that circumstance. The following summary shows the condition of the bank on July 13th, last: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$195,938.08; stocks, bonds and mortgages, \$124,204.53; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$26,784.30; U. S. 4% bonds of 1925, \$100,000; premiums, \$13,000; reserve in banks and with Treasurer U. S., \$44,227.19; due from other banks, \$3,447.71; cash, \$19,720.97; total, \$530,322.78. Liabilities—Capital stock, \$100,000; surplus fund, \$50,000; undivided profits, \$42,897.78; 66th dividend, \$4,000; circulation, \$90,000; deposits, \$242,231.21; due banks, \$753.07; due Treasurer U. S., \$440.72; total, \$530,322.78.

Dr. C. H. Eccleston, a veteran dentist and a resident of Oxford for upwards of the past fifty years, was born in Preston, Chenango Co., May 28, 1826, where he was brought up on a farm, until 1845 when he entered the Oxford academy, taking a half term course that year and a full term in 1846 in the Norwich academy. In the spring of 1847 he began the study and practice of "drilling and plugging teeth," as he characteristically terms it, in the office of Dr. E. H. Parmlee, Norwich, having previously had a training in a jewelry store, where he became quite adept at engraving on wood and copper. The doctor began practice in Corning, Steuben Co., May, 1848, and during the course of that year, he removed to Utica, where he practiced for a short time, coming to Oxford in 1849. Having progressive ideas and an inventive turn he devoted his spare time outside of office hours to making moulds for the manufacture of teeth, having in view that form of enterprise which he later started with success. Thirty seven years ago he took a course of instruction under Dr. Norman W.

Kingsley in carving and making block or section teeth, which laid the foundation for the Union Tooth Co. This he established in 1860 for the manufacture of teeth, which are being shipped to many of the leading business centres in various parts of the world, including Germany, Canada, Mexico, and Great Britain. The business is located in the Eccleston building, on Clinton street, shown in an illustration in these pages, where during busy seasons many hands are employed. The premises are fitted with a furnace, pans, bronze moulds and other appliances for the manufacture of this special line of goods, and there are to be seen racks upon racks of the pearly teeth stowed neatly away in cases, showing that the business is one of considerable importance. This is the result of many years of study and experiment, filling up time snatched from a large and prosperous practice which the doctor has conducted for half a century. He was also the inventor of a dental chair which attracted the attention of the profession and was fully described and illustrated in the Scientific American, Jan. 20, 1849. The doctor added improvements to the chair, which, by the way, he thinks was the first to have three adjustments, an idea the inventor failed to patent, but which others appropriated. He patented other useful devices including an ether sprayer and a vaccine spring lance. He also perfected improvements in artificial teeth which were detailed and pictured in the American Artisan of May 12, 1869. Thoroughly awake to the advance of his profession, he has been the first to adopt modern requirements, for example, he protests against that "crown and bridge work," which he says so many seem interested in, but which he declares to be "the second cousin to the kind of work done forty-five years ago, with improvements of course which the rich can pay for if they want to." He can make gold crowns when the case requires and porcelain cannot be used. Dr. Eccleston has operating parlors in the same building with the Tooth Co., and gives attention to all kinds of dental work. He is active in public matters and a close observer of passing events, which he takes great interest in.



Photo by Graeff. DR. ECCLESTON'S BUILDING.

discussing; at the same time having a rich store of reminiscences bearing on the history of Oxford for a long time back. On January 22, 1851, he married Amanda N. Foote. Their children are Mrs. Dr. G. D. Johnson of Greene, Miss Mary McCall Eccleston at school at Albany, and Charles G., Edson Foote, and Walter Lee of Oxford. Dr. Eccleston always voted the Republican ticket but never held office but once, when he served as village trustee for four years. Mrs. Eccleston is much interested in the social and progressive life of the village and is an earnest worker in the ladies' improvement society. C. G. Eccleston, the junior member of the firm, was born at Oxford, October 20, 1851, and was graduated at Falley Seminary, Fulton, N. Y. He became connected with the enterprise in 1872 and has charge of the business and the shipping. He married Minnie, daughter of Wm. Cook of Sidney. The company does a general depot business, furnishing dentists with all classes of dental goods and making a specialty of superior teeth in rubber and amalgam.

**The Y. M. C. A.**—This very promising section of the Young Men's Christian Association of the

State of New York, was organized in the early part of 1896 by the appointment of J. C. Estelow, President; M. D. Aldrich, Secretary; A. S. Burchard, Treasurer; Wellington Alexander, J. W. Harrington, James Burke, Geo. R. Bradley, F. E. Beadle and Geo. L. Stafford as an executive committee by the State Committee. In the fall of that year a suite of rooms in the Harrington block were engaged and very attractively furnished. They consist of a public reading room, open to all from four o'clock to ten o'clock p. m., daily, a game room, and an assembly room with a seating capacity of about one hundred and fifty. On the tables and in the files of the reading room will be found all the leading magazines, journals and

Photos by Burke.

THE Y. M. C. A. ROOMS.

newspapers of the day, such as Harper's Scribner's, Century, Forum, Review of Reviews, St. Nicholas, Harper's Weekly, Leslie's, Scientific American, Youth's Companion, Puck, Judge, New York Sun, Tribune and all local papers, besides a strong representation of the religious press. The executive committee were extremely fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Geo. A. Mallory as superintendent in charge. His hearty interest in work of this character is manifest by the cordiality of his welcome to any and all who patronize the rooms, and is not the least of the drawing elements that make the rooms so attractive. The efforts of the Association are directed along such lines as to draw to it the support and active co-

operation of all citizens interested in what pertains to the best in the social and civic life of the community. From the date of its establishment the membership has steadily increased until, at the present time, there are fully one hundred names on its roll of active members. On its list of supporting patrons are to be found the names of the best and leading citizens of the town. A great measure of the success already attained by the Association is due to the effective help of the Ladies' Auxiliary, the members of which have always evinced a hearty interest in its welfare and an ever ready willingness to serve in its cause. Its present equipment for the work usually carried on by organizations of this character is good, and the executive committee have in contemplation the installment of a limited



Photo by Graeff.

DR. C. H. ECCLESTON'S RESIDENCE.



Photo by Graeff.  
Joseph Blaby, Architect.

OXFORD ACADEMY AND UNION SCHOOL.

George W. Aldrich, Builder.

amount of gymnasium apparatus as soon as the necessary funds can be secured. Taken as a whole, the location, management, support and character of work are such as to give hope of a prosperous and useful future for the Association.

**The School.**—Owing to the popular adoption of the free school system throughout the state, Oxford Academy, having rounded out its century of prosperity and won for itself and the town a well merited reputation as one of the foremost centers of culture and learning in the state, gracefully yielded its position as a private academy and became merged into a public institution under the name of Oxford Academy and Union School. The legal steps toward the consummation of this union were taken in the Spring of 1895. The new school thus formed combines the former districts of the village which formed the nucleus for the grades and the time honored academy perpetuated by the academic department. To provide for this larger institution, the old academy building was removed and a new and commodious structure erected upon its site at a cost of \$20,000. The material is of brick, with Oxford blue stone trimmings. The basement, light and airy, besides affording ample room for the storage of fuel and the machinery and apparatus for heating and

ventilating (the system of the Peck-Williamson Company of Cincinnati, O.), contains also the toilet rooms and two large rooms for the primary grades. The first floor, with its ample halls, furnishes five grade rooms with cloak rooms adjoining each, a teachers' parlor and a fine library and Natural History room, while the second floor gives room for the eighth grade, the academic department, the principal's office, four recitation rooms and a spacious assembly hall, adapted to chapel exercises and other public doings of the school. The building has a capacity of upwards of 500 pupils, and is ample in its proportions to accommodate the large academic department and the eight grades leading up to it. The rooms are elegantly lighted and furnished with the most approved systems of heating and ventilation and thoroughly equipped for successful teaching with the most modern furniture and apparatus. In the completion of all these details the utmost regard has been had to the comfort and convenience of both teachers and pupils. Sparkling spring water from the hillsides is on draught in the basement and first floor; a system of speaking tubes, electric



THE BRONZE CENTENNIAL TABLET (IN THE SCHOOL LOBBY)  
Loaned by the Times.



call bells and fire alarm connects the various rooms with the academic department, and a program clock strikes the divisions of time automatically in all the school rooms. A large and varied collection of rare stuffed birds and animals, a gift to the institution of Mr. Isaac S. Sherwood, valued at \$2,000, forms a prominent feature in the Natural History room, and a well selected library formerly in the care of the Calleopean Society in the old academy, has been placed in modern metallic cases in the library room, where ample shelves await the purchase of new and valuable books. One must go far to find a more attractive room than this. As to location, the site on which the

Brown, President; Wellington Alexander, Clerk; Peter V. Newkirk, Treasurer; and Charles W. Brown, John W. Thorp, M. D., Jared C. Estelow, Clark E. Bartlett, Albert S. Burchard, John J. Lillis, William K. Jacobs, Alexander D. Wands, Frank T. Corbin, commissioners. The faculty: Prof. Reynolds H. Coe, M. A., Principal; Miss Cornelia Beare, Teacher of Modern Languages; Miss Mary P. Joslyn, Teacher of Science and Mathematics; Miss Emily W. Mills, Teacher Eighth grade; Miss Lena M. Harmon, Seventh grade; Miss Edith V. King, Sixth grade; Miss Bertha R. Kain, Fifth and Fourth grades; Miss Myra J. Perkins, Third grade; Miss Ella Marsden,



Photos by Graeff.

## ACADEMY AND UNION SCHOOL.

The Library.

Academic Dep't.

Primary Dep't.

Assembly.

building stands, set apart for educational purposes more than a half century ago, is most fortunate, being centrally located, sloping as it does toward the banks of the Chenango and affording ample grounds for recreation and pleasure, while the scenery on all sides is unsurpassed in beauty and picturesqueness. The building was formally opened Sept. 7, 1897, with appropriate ceremonies, on which occasion addresses were delivered by Hon. Charles W. Brown, President of the Board of Education, Principal Coe, and Hon. Charles R. Skinner, Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State. The school is in charge of Principal R. H. Coe and a competent corps of instructors. The Board of Education comprises Charles W.

Second grade; Miss Isabel Donnelly, First grade. The system of education adopted is designed to qualify young men and women for commercial and practical business, or to lay the proper foundations for a professional life. Hence the course of study pursued in the lower grades prepares the student to enter any one of the three academic courses: Classical, Latin-Scientific, or English. The first two cover a period of four years each, while the English course is completed in three years. Diplomas are awarded at the completion of any one of these courses. Especial attention is given to a preparation for college. The school year is divided into two terms, each continuing twenty weeks.



HENRY L. MILLER.

Henry L. Miller was one of the foremost merchants of Oxford, a public-spirited citizen, who grew up with the village and felt a deep interest in public improvements; who was prominent in the religious and social life of the place and a liberal supporter of the Congregational church, of which he and his wife were devout members. Few residents of Oxford exerted a wider and more salutary influence. His father, Epiphraas Miller, an early settler, whose sketch appears elsewhere, gave his son the advantage of a good academic education and the latter knew how to grasp the opportunities that were within his reach. His mother was the daughter of Dr. Samuel Baldwin, of Egremont, Mass., who served the patriot cause of '76 and who was subsequently a member of the Massachusetts legislature. Henry L., born in Oxford, May 15, 1815, was the eldest of four children, the others being Mrs. Elizabeth M. Lathrop and Benjamin S., both deceased, the former buried at Buffalo and the latter at Oxford, and Mrs. Anna M. Cannon, of Cannonsville, Delaware county. Upon his graduation at the Oxford academy in 1834, he assisted in his father's store, the same now occupied by William M. Miller on Lafayette square. In 1835 he entered the dry goods house of P. Freeman & Co., Pearl street, New York, to acquire a thorough acquaintance with the business, returning to Oxford in 1838 and entering into co-partnership with his father. On October 15, 1839, he married Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of William Mygatt, to whom there were born four sons—William M. and John E., now residents of Oxford, Henry N., who died February 10, 1864, and Benjamin S., of Binghamton. In 1841 he entered into partnership in the leather business with William Mygatt, putting into the store a large stock

of general merchandise, and upon the retirement of the latter in 1851 continued the business alone for two years, when G. H. Perkins became a partner. In 1868 William M., his eldest son, entered the firm, and the business was continued under the firm name of Miller, Perkins & Co. until the death of the senior partner, Henry L., which occurred March 10, 1886. Four years later William M. assumed the entire business, which he has conducted ever since. The death of Henry L. Miller was a deep-felt loss to the entire community. The flag which floated from a staff on Fort Hill was lowered to half-mast, and on the day of the funeral business was generally suspended. The village trustees, the academy board and the bank directors passed suitable resolutions expressive of their admiration and esteem for their departed fellow townsman. Mr. Miller was a man of generous instincts, true to his friends and possessing deep religious feelings. He was a leader in the devotional exercises of the church and together with his wife a regular attendant at all services. As a business man he was systematic and painstaking. He was a fine penman and an expert book keeper. His ledger is said to have been a marvel of exactness and care, and it is stated that it was more than once shown to the students in book-keeping at the academy as an excellent example worthy of emulation. He was fond of travel and literature, and in 1881 he made an extended trip through England, France, Germany and Switzerland. He was especially interested in American tours, with which he was well acquainted. From 1862 to 1866 he was president of the village and for many years a trustee of the Oxford academy. He and his father-in-law at one time purchased a one-fourth interest in the First National Bank of Oxford, of which institution he was the cashier in 1865-67, and vice president in 1867-79. Mrs. Miller was a woman of intellectual capacity, a leader in social affairs and the first to draw her purse in aid of deserving charity. She possessed a more than ordinary education for those days, being a fine Latin scholar and a student in French and Italian. In memory of her husband she gave to the Congregational society a handsome memorial chapel, dedicated February 1, 1888, two years prior to her death, which occurred February 5, 1890. It was built in Queen Anne style, 30x50 feet, resting on a foundation of rock-face blue stone furnished by her son, John E.



Photo by Burke

WILLIAM M. MILLER'S RESIDENCE.

Miller, and supporting an ornamental cupola. The interior is wainscoted in old English style, stained to imitate old cherry and neatly finished in hard oil, and is furnished with easy chairs and portierres. The windows are cathedral glass. A tablet in marble and bronze bears an appropriate inscription. The cost of the chapel and lot was \$3,000. Mr. and Mrs. Miller rest side by side in Riverview cemetery.

**William M. Miller** is one of the best known among Oxford merchants. For thirty-five years he has been in trade in this village, reckoning the period of his clerkship. His father and his grandfather carried on the same business—that of general merchandise, dry goods, groceries and all that is kept in a general store—years before him. Indeed, it was his grandfather, Epiphra Miller, who founded the business in 1800; the history of which appears on other pages of this souvenir. The original store stood where the grandson now does business. It was twenty feet deep. From time to time it was extended back from the street, until now it is seventy-four feet deep and twenty feet wide. Then the son, Henry L. Miller, came into the firm. Along in 1852 the business passed into the hands of Miller & Perkins, and in 1856 it was moved across the river into the old brick block still standing at the corner of Main street and Fort Hill square. In the spring of 1868 William M. Miller became a partner and the firm was known as Miller, Perkins & Co. Then the business was brought back to the old place, where it has ever since remained. The death of the senior partner, Henry L. Miller, in 1886, led to no immediate change, the business being conducted under the same firm name until the retirement of Mr. Perkins in 1890, since which time the grandson of the founder has carried it along until he has made it one of the largest in the village. At one time its patrons were scattered over an extent of country within the radius of a day's drive. That was before the railroads were put through from Binghamton to Albany on one side, and from Binghamton to Syracuse on the other. Frequently large bills of goods were carted from this store over into Delaware county. Mr. Miller is a public spirited man to whom any legitimate enterprise which promises the promotion of the best interests of the community does not appeal in vain. He is



WILLIAM M. MILLER.

a director in the First National Bank, of Oxford, and is a large property owner both in village and farm real estate. When the opera house had proved a failure in the hands of a syndicate of local capitalists he took the property and is today the owner. He is a prominent supporter of the Congregational church society, of which he is also a trustee. He was born in Oxford, Sept. 28, 1840, and was graduated at the Oxford academy in 1857. Within a year or two he entered his father's store as a clerk, in which capacity he remained until his admission as a partner. On July 17, 1879, he married Emma E., the daughter of B. M. Pearne, of Oxford. Mr. and Mrs. Miller reside in a very pleasant dwelling surrounded by pretty grounds located in the heart of the village and skirted by the lovely Chenango river. Mr. Miller, years ago was one of the active members of the fire department, first connected with the old Lady Washington company and afterwards with the Sappho hose company. Henry P. Miller, the oldest son, is at school at New Brunswick, N. J. The other two children, still at home, are Elizabeth M. and Benjamin M.

**The Book Clubs.**—One of the unique features of the literary life of Oxford for the past years, has been the two book clubs known as No. 1 and No. 2. Book Club No. 1 was first started in November, 1866, with 26 members, Dr. Ayrault, Mrs. Wm. H. Hyde and Mrs. Henry L. Miller being the first committee. A membership fee of \$2.00 formed a fund for the purchase of books. These are passed from one member to another in regular order, every two weeks during the year. Then they are sold at auction. The proceeds and \$1.00 per member have formed the fund for each year thereafter. From time to time the number of members has been increased until now there are 31, thus extending the time of sale and repurchasing of books. Nine years later, in 1875, Book Club No. 2 was formed on much the same plan, with 26 members, Mrs. D. B. Smith, Mrs. Charles Bennett and Miss Addie Baldwin being the first committee. Their membership has been restricted to 26 and their limit of time to the year. These clubs have formed a prominent factor in the education of our citizens, bringing as they have a large list of books from the best authors into our homes at a comparatively trifling expense.



Photo by Graeff. THE MILLER STORE.



The Citizens' Opera House was built in 1887, by a stock company of citizens of Oxford organized for that purpose. The town was supplied with halls, but none having the conveniences necessary to bring to the village first-class professional entertainments. Sentiment demanded an opera house and the matter was taken up by a few citizens who determined that Oxford should be foremost among her sister towns in that respect. A subscription was started for \$25 shares, out of which grew the incorporation of the Citizens' Opera House Company, limited. Work was begun at once on the present opera house building, located at the corner of Washington avenue and Taylor street. The structure was erected after modern plans, exclusively as an opera house on the ground floor, something very few villages and small cities possess. No pains or expense were spared to construct a building which, in all respects, should be equal to a first class provincial opera house. There was no restriction in the plans that would hamper the setting for any play which might be expected to come to a town of this size. The stage is the largest of any between Binghamton and Utica; the dressing rooms are arranged to the best advantage and with an eye to the comfort and convenience of those who use them. The acoustic properties are excellent, no difficulty being experienced in hearing all that is said plainly in any part of the house. The reserved seats are folding, upholstered opera chairs, and there is not a seat in the house which does not give equally advantageous view of the stage.



HARRY TEW, MANAGER OPERA HOUSE.

Including the balcony, there are four grades of seats and the seating capacity is 600. The house is lighted by electricity and gas, and is furnished with an A-1 piano. The arrangement of double entrances, one each side of the ticket office, and a vestibule leading directly from the street, is all that can be desired. There are also the side and property room entrances. In 1893, Mr. Wm. M. Miller purchased the building and placed the exclusive management in the hands of Mr. Harry Tew, the present manager. Mr. Tew takes a great deal of pride in giving the people of Oxford first-class entertainments and under his management the opera house has become a creditable institution and the entertainment season is marked with the booking of first-class shows. Mr. Tew is a hustler and troupes which give Oxford creditable performances are sure to be greeted with paying houses and to meet with fair and perfectly satisfactory treatment. Mr. Tew was born in Buckingham, England, and came to America in May, 1868. He returned to his old home in England in December, 1869, coming back in March, 1870, when he settled in Oxford, and soon built up a paying painting and house decorating business in which he is engaged at the present time, having, within the past two years, included the retail branch of paints and paper, being the sole representative of the well known manufacturers and exporters, Longman & Martinez, 207 Pearl st., N. Y. He was one of the original subscribers to the opera house company, and acted as manager of the house from 1890 until it came into the hands of Mr. Miller,



Photo by Graeff.

THE CITIZENS' OPERA HOUSE.

prior to which time the conditions were not such as to give him that exercise of personal judgment which is necessary to secure a successful and profitable management. Mr. Tew is a zealous and enthusiastic Mason, being a member of the Oxford lodge and chapter and the Malta commandery of Binghamton. He is an exempt fireman, having served two terms of seven years each in the fire department, the first in the Sappho Hose Co., and the second in the Steamer company, in which he held prominent offices, as well as always managing the public entertainments which invariably netted a handsome profit to the company.

The Auxiliary Y. M. C. A. was organized Oct. 10, 1896, at a meeting at the academy chapel called by Mr. Estelow. Mrs. H. A. Curtis was called to the chair as temporary presiding officer. Plans for aiding the Y. M. C. A. and carrying on auxiliary work were discussed at length. The following were appointed a committee to confer with the Y. M. C. A.: Mrs. Dr. Gleason, Miss Skinner, Miss Newton and Mrs. Wm. Frisbie. The next meeting was held Oct. 15th, at which

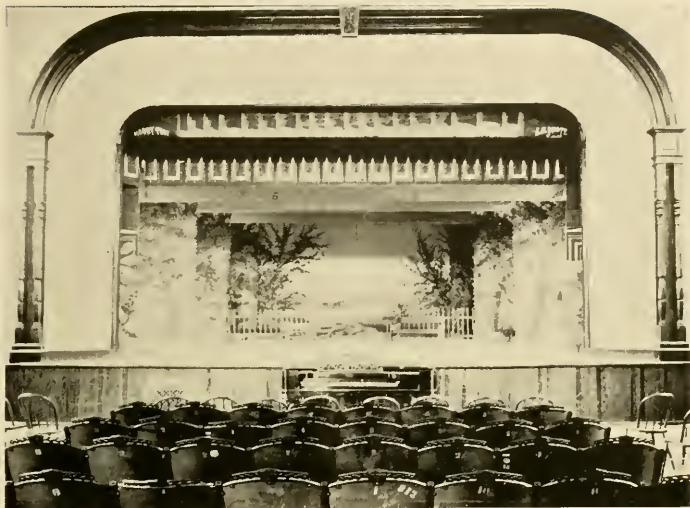


Photo by Graeff.

THE CITIZENS' OPERA HOUSE.

time the permanent organization was secured by the election of the following officers: president, Mrs. Dr. J. W. Thorp; vice president, Miss Hattie Gleason; secretary, Mrs. H. A. Curtiss; treasurer, Mrs. C. B. Parsons. The executive committee. Mrs. S. S. Stafford, Mrs. B. G. Greene, Mrs. Geo. Fletcher, Mrs. J. R. VanWagenen, Mrs. William Clarke, Mrs. D. A. Gleason, Mrs. R. W. Taft, Mrs. George Mallory, Mrs. F. A. Beadle and Mrs. Wm. Miller. The first essential work was to assist in raising a Y. M. C. A. fund; and to carry out this work the east and west sides of the river were placed in charge of the several members of the auxiliary, assigned to the respective territories.

The auxiliary gave a reception on the opening night of the Y. M. C. A. rooms, the success of which gave double assurance of what the ladies will do towards securing to the village a Y. M. C. A. building. During this the first fiscal year, the auxiliary has raised nearly, if not quite, a hundred dollars. The present officers are: president, Miss Hattie Gleason; vice-president, Mrs. J. C. Estelow; secretary, Miss Helen M. Van Wagenen; treasurer, Mrs. C. B. Parsons.

**Electric Lights.**—Oxford boasts of as efficient an electric light plant as any town; and the residences and public buildings generally use it. The streets are well lighted with arc lights. Years ago the board of trustees who voted to put up ten oil lamps were deemed extravagant. The electric plant is located on a stream whence water-power is obtained (steam also being used), two miles south of the village.

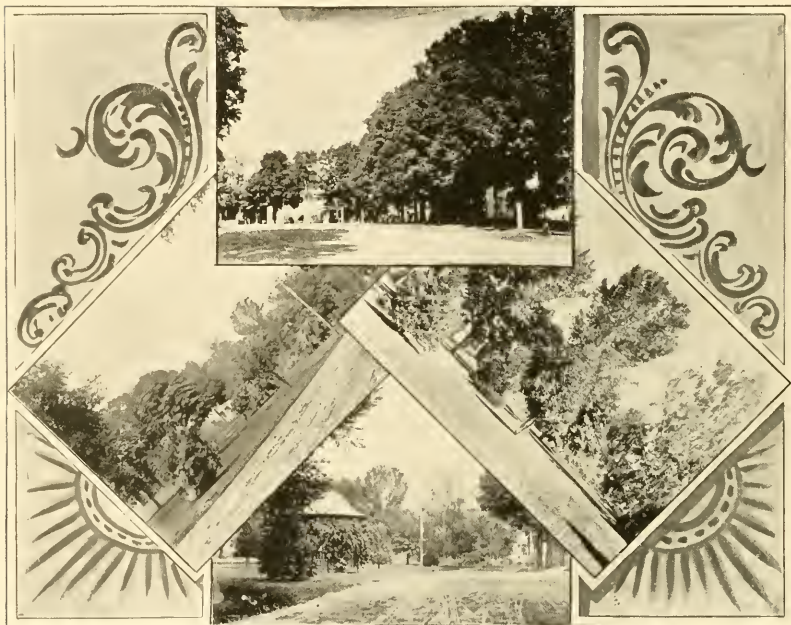


Photo by Graeff.

HARRY TEW'S RESIDENCE.

**The First Congregational Church.**—In 1792, about two years after the first log cabin had been built within the present limits of Oxford, Uri Tracy came to make his home in the new community. He was a Presbyterian minister and had labored as a missionary among the Indians. A man of liberal culture, an alumnus of Yale college, his influence was most helpful in shaping the intellectual and religious character of the town. He took a leading part in the establishment of the academy and was its first principal. He served the town and county in several important official stations, such as postmaster, county clerk, county sheriff and county judge, and was the representative in congress from this district for three terms of two years each. Prior to the formation of any

trustees of Oxford academy, and apart from his ministerial labors he seems to have been a helpful, uplifting factor in the life of the town. His home was on the farm northeast of the village, now owned and occupied by Mr. James Burke. The first trustees of the church were Jonathan Bush, John Nash, Uri Tracy, Solomon Curtis, Edward Robbins, Nathan Carpenter, Ephraim Fitch, Joshua Mersereau and Lyman Ives. The first deacon was Solomon Curtis. His signature is appended to the first minutes of a church meeting preserved in the earliest book of records now existing. At this meeting, held February 16, 1808, it was "voted that this church do request Mr. Eli Hyde, a candidate for the gospel ministry, to take the pastoral charge of this church and of the congregation worshipping with them in this place." A



FORT HILL SQUARE (Top View).

WASHINGTON PARK (Three Views).

Photos by Burke.

church in Oxford he seems to have been recognized as virtually the pastor of the community, and when at length a church was organized he took, as was to be expected, a leading part in its formation and in its early history. It is not known at what time regular religious services were established in Oxford, nor can the date of the organization of the first church be ascertained. The ecclesiastical society auxiliary to the church was legally organized at a meeting held for this purpose September 10, 1799. This meeting was held in the academy, which at that time was on "Washington Square," not far from the present residence of Mr. J. E. Packard. It was through the labors of the Rev. John Camp, a graduate of Yale college, that the church was formed, and he became its first minister, his pastorate continuing about three years. He was one of the

committee was appointed to arrange for an ecclesiastical council to ordain Mr. Hyde to the ministry and to install him as pastor of the church. This council was held June 23d of that year, at which date Mr. Hyde's pastorate began. Up to this time twenty-two persons had united with the church, and their names constitute the earliest roll of members now extant. The list is as follows: JAMES MITCHEL, AGNES MITCHEL, EBER SCOFFIELD, SOLOMON CURTIS, SARAH CURTIS, MOSES BENNETT, MARY BENNETT, LUCY SMITH, HANNAH CARY, KAZIAH BALCOM, MASSY BROOKS, SARAH HOLMES, HANNAH NOBLE, MOSES KEYES, MARGARET KEYES, ABIGAIL STEPHENS, DAVID TRACY, MARY TRACY, ELEAZUR SMITH, ISAAC FOOTE, ANNA FOOTE, RACHEL MORRIS.

The following extracts from the earliest records indicate something of the character and life of the church at the time they were written. At a church



meeting held April 6, 1809, it was decided that when any candidate for membership presented himself "it would be expedient under the existing circumstances of the church that the person should be examined at a church meeting or conference respecting the reason of his hope and the views he has in making a profession of faith in Christ." At the same meeting it was "voted, that no new member shall be received into the church unless he has been publicly propounded a fortnight previous to the time proposed for admission." Also it was "Voted, that the church will not receive into occasional communion members of other churches who shall have resided in our vicinity more than a year and a half without having presented a letter of dismission to this church." At a church meeting Nov. 29, 1810—"The church after having looked to God for special direction in the choice of a deacon proceeded and made choice of Amos A. Franklin to the office." At a meeting after lecture Jan. 13, 1811—"Brother Franklin publicly accepted his appointment as deacon and was publicly consecrated to the office by prayer." For twelve years or more from the time of its organization the church worshipped in the Academy. This build-

ing stood originally on Washington Square, as above stated, near Mr. Packard's residence. It was moved in 1806 to the lot on the corner of Merchants' and Green Streets where the home of Miss Helen Lobdell now stands. After leaving the Academy building the congregation worshipped at the home of Deacon Franklin, which stood probably on the site now occupied by the residence of Dr. J. W. Thorp. When on account of the growth of the congregation it became necessary to find a larger place of meeting, Deacon Franklin

finished off the upper part of his cabinet shop, on Merchants' Row, and gave the use of it to the church. This shop was afterwards converted into a dwelling and is now the home of George Mallory and Clarence A. Hoffman. In 1822 work was begun upon the present church building which was formally dedicated July 31, 1823. The site was given by Mr. Ira Wilcox, and the original cost of the building was about four thousand dollars. Extensive improvements were made in 1857, and in 1873 over \$10,000 were expended in remodelling the building throughout and adapting it to the requirements of modern church life. The chapel, built in 1887 by Mrs. Henry L. Miller as a memorial of her husband, is a very useful and highly valued addition to the equipment of the church, affording an attractive and convenient meeting place for the Sunday school and for the different organizations connected with the church. The church parsonage was purchased in 1866.

The first book of records contains what is probably the original "Confession of Faith and Covenant" of the church. It is an uncompromisingly Calvinistic document, and reflects faithfully what was regarded as the orthodox faith of a century ago. This doctrinal confession has in the course of time been greatly modified, and at present those uniting with the church are not asked to give assent to any formal creed, reasonable evidence of loyalty to Christ being the only condition of membership. The church has been from the beginning Congregational, but at different periods in its history it has affiliated with the Presbyterian denomination. This seems to have been the case at or near the time of its organization as the name of the church society from 1799, has been "The Associated Presbyterian Society of Oxford." This name does not indicate that the church was Presbyterian. It means that although a Congregational church, it was "associated" with neighboring Presbyterian churches in the work of their district presbytery, and to a certain extent in denominational work. In 1812 it united with the Union Association, composed of Congregational churches of this vicinity. In 1827 it united with



Photo by Graeff.

A. D. WAND'S RESIDENCE.

the Chenango Presbytery. In 1882 it withdrew from Presbytery and united with the Oneida, Chenango and Delaware Congregational Association of which it is now a member.

The following is a list of the pastors of the church with the years of their service, so far as can be ascertained: Rev. John Camp, 1799—; Rev. Eli Hyde, 1808-'12; Rev. Edward Andrews, 1818—; Rev. Marcus Harrison, 1822; Rev. Joseph D. Wickham, D. D., 1823-'25; Rev. Elijah D. Wells, 1825—; Rev. Charles Gilbert, 1829; Rev. James Abell 1830—; Rev. George W. Bassett, 1837—; Rev. Arthur Burtis, D. D., 1839-'45; Rev. William M. Richards, 1846; Rev. Charles Jerome, 1847-'49; Rev. Henry Callihan, 1850-'61; Rev. Elliot H. Payson, 1862-'70; Rev. Charles F. Jones, 1870—; Rev. Henry P. Collin, 1873—; Rev. Henry N. Payne, 1870—; Rev. Benjamin F. Bradford, D. D., 1881-'89; Rev. Howard Billman, 1889-'93; Rev. Ward T. Sutherland, D. D., 1894—. The mem-

bers of the church number two hundred and twenty-one. Of these thirty are non-residents. The officers of the church are:—Pastor, Ward T. Sutherland, D. D.; Deacons, George H. Turner, Dr. J. W. Thorp, Benjamin M. Pearne, Dr. E. L. Ensign; Sunday School Superintendent, Dr. E. L. Ensign; Trustees, A. D. Harrington, Wm. M. Miller, Clarence A. Miner, Dr. R. E. Miller, C. O. Wilcox, A. D. Wands; Treasurer, H. A. Curtis; Clerk, Gilbert M. Stratton; Chorister, B. M. Pearne.

**The Rev. Ward T. Sutherland, D. D.,** was born in Towanda, Pa., April 16, 1857. His father, the Rev. Andrew Sutherland, was a Methodist pastor and presiding elder in the East Genesee (afterwards the Genesee) Conference in Western New York and Northern Pennsylvania. Under the Methodist itinerancy the family home was removed successively from Towanda, Penn., to Trumansburg, N. Y., Newark, Geneva and Lima, N. Y. He prepared for college at Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, in Lima, and entered the University of Rochester, graduating in 1878 from the classical course. He

years. Solomon Bundy also held this office and was active in the interests of the school. In 1865 Mr. J. W. Thorp took charge of the school, continuing in the superintendency until 1871, when he went to New York to pursue medical studies. Dr. George Douglass was Superintendent for several years, but on his leaving Oxford to live in Brooklyn, Dr. Thorp again took up the work, remaining in charge until about 1883, when Mrs. Bradford, wife of the pastor of the church, became Superintendent. In 1886 Dr. E. L. Ensign was chosen to the superintendency which position he has filled up to the present time with the exception of 1893, when Jared C. Estelow took charge of the school. The officers of the school at present are: Superintendent, Dr. E. L. Ensign; Assistant Superintendents, Rev. Ward T. Sutherland, D. D., and Miss Hattie Gleason; Secretary, Miss Edith Saunders; Treasurer, Mr. H. A. Curtis; Organist, Miss Emma Sherwood; Superintendent of the Home Department, Mrs. B. M. Pearne. The enrolled membership of the school Jan. 1, 1897, was 185. The average attendance is 86.



Photo by Burke.

EAST MAIN STREET.

taught for six years in the State School for the Deaf at Rochester, N. Y. In 1884 he entered the Yale Divinity School to prepare for the ministry and was graduated in 1887. His pastorates have been in Ashland, Wisconsin, 1887-'89; Meadville, Penn., 1889-'94, and since September, '94, in Oxford, N. Y.

**The Congregational Sunday School.**—The early records of the Sunday school have not been preserved and nothing definite can be ascertained with regard to its early history. Mrs. Hannah F. Cary, now living in Lexington, Ky., was a member of the school when the church worshipped in the room over her father, Deacon Franklin's cabinet shop. This was before the year 1823. Deacon Franklin was at that time superintendent of the school, and for many years after the church was built. He was followed by Mr. A. Watson. Mr. Henry L. Miller was its Superintendent for many

**Christian Endeavor.**—The young people of the Congregational church were called together at the parsonage, Monday evening, May 14, 1888, for the purpose of organizing a Society of Christian Endeavor. Dr. B. F. Bradford, the pastor of the church, acted as chairman of the meeting and Miss Anna Arrison as secretary. A committee of five was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws, which were adopted at the next meeting. The first officers were: President, J. C. Estelow; vice-president, Mrs. J. W. Harrington; corresponding secretary, Miss Anna Arrison; recording secretary, Miss Ida Hill; treasurer, Miss Jennie Randall. J. C. Estelow was succeeded as president by the Rev. Mr. Billman, pastor of the church. At the first meeting of the society twenty persons signed the pledge. The membership has since increased until at the present time they number forty-one—thirty-four active and seven associate

members. The present officers are: President, Miss M. Genevieve Dodge; vice-president, Mr. Gilbert Stratton; treasurer, Mrs. C. C. Bull; corresponding secretary, Miss Emma Miller; recording secretary, Miss Elizabeth Miller.

**Ladies' Missionary and Aid Society of the Congregational Church.**—There has been an active ladies' society in the church for many years, though the precise date of its organization is not known. In 1875 the society was reorganized under the title of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, which was its cognomen until 1894, when it was thought that better results might be obtained by a division into the Ladies' Society, for parish work, and the Ladies' Missionary Society, for the distinctively missionary work, both home and foreign. The two societies worked side by side until 1897, when they were again united under the name of the Ladies' Missionary and Church Aid Society. The officers are: President, Mrs. Ward T. Sutherland; vice-president, Mrs. A. D. Harrington; secretary, Mrs. E. C. Gray; treasurer, Mrs. B. G. Greene.

**Mrs. Charles W. Sherwood** conducts a large millinery store at the corner of Main and Canal streets, overlooking Lafayette square. This is probably the most favorable corner for business in the village, and as Mrs. Sherwood has consider-

able room for the display of her goods, which she keeps fully stocked with the latest styles, making trips to New York three and four times a year for the purpose of obtaining the best and newest goods and patterns, she is favored with the best class of custom in the village and vicinity. Her trade has been constant and this enables her during the busy season to employ considerable help, four the year around and sometimes as many as eleven, including the dressmaking department, which is an important part of her business. The view shown in connection with this sketch was



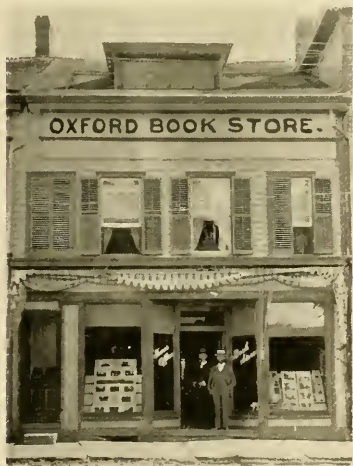
Photo by Graeff.

MRS. C. W. SHERWOOD'S MILLINERY STORE.

taken before Mrs. Sherwood put in the large autumn stock from which it will be seen that she carries a very large assortment at all times. She has been engaged in the dressmaking business for ten years. Six years ago she opened the millinery department where she now is. The increase of patronage has been such as to demand larger quarters, and so it is that as soon as the store which is now being prepared for her in the Haight Building, Lafayette square, is ready, she will have considerably more room and will add largely to the stock. This comprises everything new in the millinery line, also dress goods, ready-made wrappers and all kinds of ladies' and children's furnishing goods.

**Henry J. Galpin**, the stationer and book dealer in Oxford, has been in the business since 1893. It was established in 1850 by his father, J. B. Galpin, and conducted by him up to the time of his death, when the subject of this sketch took possession. Mr. Galpin was born in Oxford May 10, 1850, and was educated at the Oxford Academy and at Fallay Seminary, Fulton, N. Y. (1870-71). He was connected with the Oxford Times for several years. On Sept. 12, 1894, he married Mrs. Eva B. Williams of Fulton. Mr. Galpin keeps a full line of school supplies, wall paper, stationery and the works of the latest and most popular authors.

**Loyal to the Union.**—At a public meeting, July 24, 1862, patriotic speeches fired the people in behalf of the Union, and it was resolved, "that in view of the present aspect of the rebellion, the possible chance of foreign interference in our national affairs and the disastrous results to follow upon the destruction of the government, we believe all the energies of the nation should be devoted to the prosecution of the war." One thousand dollars was raised with a hurrah!



H. J. GALPIN'S BOOK STORE.

Photo by Burke.



The Oxford Baptist Church was organized July 14, 1815, in a school-house about one mile south of the present village of Oxford. The constituent members were Nathaniel Havens, Mrs. Clara Havens, Daniel Tracy, Jr., Mrs. Polly Tracy, John Dodge, Mrs. Betsy Gifford, Mrs. Abigail Hackett, Mrs. Polly Gordon, John Hull, Mrs. Hannah Hull, John Perry, Mrs. Mary Perry, Hial Tracy, Mrs. Susan Tracy, Ira Burlingame, Mrs. Polly Johnson. For many years the places of worship were the above school-house, and elsewhere. In 1825 the land was purchased on which the present meeting-house stands, the conveyance being made by Gould Hoyt and Sabrina, his wife, for the consideration of \$500. The first house of worship was dedicated January 9, 1834. It is described as 15 feet wide and 60 feet long. The gallery was on three sides, with the choir located where the pulpit stands in the present building. The pulpit was between the two entrance doors, with a floor

tures, especially in the New Testament; it has steadily supported the various organizations approved among Baptist Churches for the instruction of men in the Word of God, and for the spread of the gospel in the world. We now look to the future, believing fully that our work as a Church is not yet complete, but on the contrary, that much is yet to be done, and that growth in strength will show growing victories for our Lord, wrought by this people. Names of pastors and date of settlement Levi Holcomb, 1819; Nathaniel Otis, 1825; Robert Adams, 1832; Washington Kingsley, 1833; J. D. F. Bestor, 1838; Jabez Swan, 1839; Elisha G. Perry, 1842; Geo. W. Stone, 1844; Wm. S. Smith, 1848; Elijah Baldwin, 1851; Nathaniel Ripley, 1853; W. T. Potter, 1857; L. E. Spafford, 1864; A. Reynolds, 1870; John C. Ward, 1873; R. A. Patterson, 1875; W. R. Baldwin, 1877; L. F. Moore, 1882; B. F. Williams, 1886; P. D. Root, 1887; L. T. Giffin, 1889; C. B. Parsons, 1892. Names of deacons Hial Tracy, John McNeil,



Photo by Burke.

ALBANY STREET.

5 feet high, a square, plain front, with doors at each side and winding stairs leading up to them. The sides of the room had five wall pews, with seats on three sides of them and a door. The seats in the center were slips with doors. The seats faced the entrance, with a long seat in front of the slips called the "anxious seat." The house was lighted by candles. According to the custom then prevailing, there was preaching in the morning and afternoon, with an intermission between. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Jabez Swan, of revered memory, the text being Genesis 28:17, "How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." The present house of worship was remodeled from the original building in 1879, during the pastorate of Rev. Wm. Baldwin. The expense was \$7,000, and the rededication was made September 3, 1879. During all the years from 1815 until now (1897), this church has had no serious division in the membership. It has loyally defended the truth, as understood by its members, to be taught in the Christian scrip-

John Perry, Randall Maine, Ira Noble, Jeremiah Vork, B. Randall, Wm. L. Jacobs, Samuel Root, Obadiah Tower, D. G. Barber, W. R. Mowry, J. D. Smith, A. D. Gates, C. M. Gray. Names of church clerks: Daniel Tracy, Jr., Randall Maine, Samuel Root, A. D. Gates, P. G. Jacobs.

Curtis B. Parsons, pastor of the Baptist church, was born in Shelby, N. Y., May 21, 1841, and was graduated at the University of Rochester in 1862, and at the Rochester Theological Seminary in 1870. He was ordained and served his first pastorate at Farmer Village, N. Y., 1870-74. His subsequent pastorates were: Nunda, 1874-76; Dunkirk, N. Y., 1876-82; North East, Pa., 1882-84; Knowlesville, N. Y., 1884-85; Geneseo, N. Y., 1885-92; Oxford, N. Y., 1892.

Christian Endeavor, Baptist Society.—In July, 1886, when the United Society of Christian Endeavor was comparatively a new thing, a society was formed in the Baptist church called "The Willing Workers," under the leadership of Rev. B. F.

Williams, Mr. George Keyes and Miss Ada Williams being among the principal supporters. Afterward, when the Christian Endeavor work became more widely known, the name of the society was changed and the Christian Endeavor pledge was adopted. There has averaged about forty active and eight associate members from that time on. The society has been loyally sustained by the members and warmly approved by the older members of the church. The church was wired for electric lights by the Christian Endeavor society, and the cost for keeping the church lighted has always been promptly paid by them. Their prayer meetings each Sunday evening are well attended by old and young. The present officers are President, Lee Bixby; vice-president, Frank L. Root; secretary, Mildred Smith; treasurer, Anna Bartle; recording secretary, Harriet C. Jacobs.

**The Foreign Mission Circle**, Baptist church, was organized in 1875 by Mrs. Jane E. Ward, wife of a former pastor, Rev. J. C. Ward. Mrs. Ward saw that "woman's work for woman" promised great things for the future, and worked with untiring

zeal to arouse a missionary spirit in the women of the church. The circle aims to understand the spiritual condition of women in foreign lands and to cultivate a spirit of self-sacrifice among its members. Meetings are held monthly for prayer and study. Officers are President, Mrs. Derrick Race; vice-president, Mrs. P. G. Jacobs; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Frank Roxby.

#### **The Woman's Home**

**Mission Society**, Baptist church, was organized in 1887 by Mrs.

P. D. Root. Personally acquainted with officers of the Woman's Home Mission Society, Mrs. Root had become deeply interested in the work of home missions and imparted much of her enthusiasm to the circle. Meetings are held monthly for work and the study of home mission lessons. The motto, "Christ in Every Home," makes the aim of the circle to gain information concerning the needs of the work, and to aid in supplying those needs, by offerings and sending clothing and supplies to the different fields. The officers: President, Mrs. James Roys; vice-president, Mrs. D. Walker; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. C. B. Parsons.

**The Ladies' Aid Society** of the Oxford Baptist church was re-organized November 17, 1887, to aid the church in every way possible. The officers that year were: President, Mrs. James Smith; secretary, Mrs. Carrie Keyes; treasurer, Mrs. B. Woolerton. The following statistical information is of interest: 1889-91—Mrs. Giffin, president and Mrs. Charles Church, treasurer; receipts, \$113.28. 1892—President, Mrs. D. Bartle; treasurer, Mrs. Carrie Keyes; receipts, \$60. 1893—Mrs. D. Bartle, president; Mrs. Beadle, treasurer; receipts, \$60. 1894—Mrs. Bartle, president; Mrs. Beadle, treas-

urer; receipts, \$79.60. 1895—Mrs. W. K. Mowry, president; Miss Fanny Mowry, treasurer; receipts, \$91.17. 1896—Mrs. J. Philly, president; Mrs. A. J. Keyes, treasurer; receipts, \$91.67. 1897—Mrs. W. R. Mowry, president, and Mrs. A. J. Keyes, treasurer; money received up the first day of September was \$45, which has been used to pay the sexton. For three years the society has furnished dinner at the church on town meeting and on election days, and we trust they have been a help to others as well as themselves. Number of members at the present time, 43.

**William Mygatt** was an early settler who achieved success on strict business principles and through far-seeing investments. The foundation of his fortune were the profits of a large tannery and an extended leather and saddlery trade, which he established on locating in Oxford. In those days, without railroads and telegraph, Oxford, although a distributing point for a wide section of country, was far away from business centers. Large private accumulations were then rare except along the seaboard. Hence the genius of William Mygatt in accumulating the considerable fortune that he did was notable.



[Copied

WILLIAM MYGATT.

Foreseeing the commercial development of New York city, then a comparatively small place and the consequent increased valuations, he invested largely in bank stocks, so that at his death a great portion of his wealth comprised shares in a large number of successful metropolitan banks, bought at par and in many cases trebled in market value. He also invested largely in railroad stocks and real estate. His ancestry is traced to the early settlements around Boston harbor. Col. Eli Mygatt, a distinguished officer in the Continental militia during the Revolution and a member of the State Assembly for twenty-three suc-

cessive years following the close of the war for independence, was his grandfather. William Mygatt was born in New Milford, Ct., Oct. 25, 1785. We have no record of his early life, except that Mr. John E. Miller, his grandson, has the commission of Captain in the cavalry service in the war of 1812, which his grandfather received from the Governor of Connecticut. He had mounted his horse to join his regiment when he received the news of the close of hostilities so that he had no opportunity to draw his sword. On Jan. 29, 1817, he married Caroline, the daughter of Cyrus Northrup of New Milford, who was a descendant of Sir Thomas Welles, the first governor of Connecticut; and in December, 1818, the couple, having one child, Elizabeth, settled in their new home in Oxford. Mr. Mygatt at once started a tannery which stood on a site east of what is now Washington Park and in the rear of the residence now occupied by George B. Coe. In connection with the tanning business he conducted a dry goods trade, which for a time was run under the name of Mygatts & Hyde, Henry



Photo by Graeff.

DR. GREEN'S RESIDENCE

Mygatt, his brother, and Austin Hyde being his partners. In 1841 he retired from mercantile life and up to the time of his death, which was occasioned by a fall in his 83d year, his investments occupied his sole attention. He enjoyed remarkably good health and mental vigor to the last. Surrounded by a large family, to whom he gave a great deal of his time, his tastes were domestic. He reared a circle of girls to whom he gave a liberal education, sending them away from home to the best schools. Very rarely was he absent from his fireside, except when called to New York on business or to Connecticut on an occasional visit. He was scrupulous in business methods, but never oppressive and contributed largely to church and charitable purposes. His wife was a woman of lovable disposition, devoted to the training of her children and while foremost in social affairs, was strongly attached to her home. She was born in New Milford, Ct., July 27, 1797, and died May 15, 1866, her husband's death occurring on Feb. 5, 1868. The children, who are all dead, were Elizabeth (Mrs. Henry L. Miller), born Nov. 17, 1817—died Feb. 5, 1890; Frederick, born Aug. 19, 1819—died March 27, 1823; Sarah A. (Mrs. Dr. Alfred B. Coe), born Oct. 16, 1821—died March 1, 1893; Emily N., born Aug. 26, 1823—died May 15, 1856; Susan M., born Oct. 29, 1825—died Feb. 21, 1826; Caroline L. (Mrs. Rufus J. Baldwin), born Jan. 31, 1827—died Jan. 23, 1895; Jane A. (Mrs. Dr. George Douglas), born Feb. 1, 1826—died Nov. 24, 1894; Julia M. (Mrs. Charles E. Vanderburgh), born May 8, 1832—died April 23, 1865.

**Lines of Travel.**—The first mail carrier was Charles Thorp, and the first mail route, over which a weekly mail was carried on horseback up to 1810, was between Cooperstown and Binghamton (then Chenango Point). Then a stage route was formed by Mr. Willoughby, connecting Utica and Binghamton, who began with a stage wagon and two horses, making weekly trips, soon after changed to semi-weekly. In 1821 George Munsell, of Binghamton, purchased this route, run-

ning semi-weekly and himself driving. In 1825 he put on a post coach and four horses and continued as one of the proprietors for many years. In 1822 a stage route was formed from Catskill to Ithaca. About this time Ethan Clarke purchased the Stage House, and later on owned an interest in some of the stage lines. In 1823 passengers and mail were carried twice a week between Oxford and Albany, and in 1829 the Oxford and Cooperstown line of stages left Oxford daily, Saturday excepted. In 1836 stages ran daily through Oxford between Binghamton and Utica. In January, 1849, a line of four-horse coaches was established between Utica and Deposit, running daily coaches

through Oxford. In August, 1851, a daily line between Oxford and Deposit was started by G. M. Bartle and I. Slater. In July, 1858, a daily stage connected Oxford with the Syracuse & Binghamton R. R. at Chenango Forks, and in 1866 Peter Packard started a line to Unadilla to connect with trains on the Albany & Susquehanna R. R. Later it was changed to Sidney, then to Bainbridge as the road was extended to those places. The year 1870 saw the last of the four-horse mail coaches running out of Oxford, as the Midland (N. Y., O. & W.) R. R. ran its first passenger and mail train into Oxford, February 21, 1870. Finally, on December 19, 1870, the first train over the D. L. & W. R. R. arrived at Oxford, and the era of mail coaches was ended to give place to the more rapid travel by rail. With two railroads touching Oxford, there is still the prospect of the third opening direct to Syracuse, which would afford a better and more direct outlet both east and west, via the New York Central, and there are people living in Oxford who will see the road opened. During forty years the Chenango canal carried the bulk of commerce between Oxford and the outside world. The canal connecting Binghamton with Utica where it united with the Erie, being ninety-seven miles long, was authorized by an act of the legislature passed February 23, 1833. The work was begun the summer of that year and was finished in 1837. It was 40 feet wide at the water surface, 25 feet wide at the bottom and four feet deep. There were 114 locks, each 60 ft. long, 15 ft. wide. The cost of construction was \$1,737,703. The line of the canal entered the village from the north and the south, parallel to the river



Photo by Burke.

THE OXFORD CREAMERY.



and passed along what are now known as North and South Canal streets. While the canal was in use it made Oxford a point for distributing merchandise for thirty or forty miles east, it being the head of the most convenient driving roads into Delaware county and the most available point on the stage lines. But the railroads changed all of that and the canal was no longer practicable.

**First Universalist Church.**—The history of this society dates back to July 8th, 1833, when a number of persons met at the school house in the village for the purpose of organizing a religious society to be called and known by the name of the "First Universalist Society in the Town of Oxford." Anson Cary and Luke Metcalf were appointed moderators and D. Denison, clerk. Luke Metcalf, Philip Bartle, Daniel Denison, Anson Cary, Oliver Richmond, Ira Dodge, Jabez Robin-

son, Rev. J. L. Scoboria was born in St. John, N. B. He is one of two sons of Joseph and Eleanor Scoboria, the other son, Charles O. Scoboria, being a physician in Elk River, Minn. At an early age Mr. Scoboria, with his brother and parents, moved to Boston, Mass., in the vicinity of which was spent his boyhood. He received his early education in the common schools of Chelsea. In 1851 he graduated from the theological department of Tuft's college, and October 30 of the same year was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry in the First Universalist church of Somerville, of which he was a member. In December following he was married to Anna Preston, daughter of Thomas and Mary Preston. Father, mother, two sons and a daughter constitute the happy family circle. Mr. Scoboria's pastorates have been: Orleans, Mass., 1852-53; New Gloucester, Me.,



Photo by Graeff.

CLINTON STREET.

son, Thomas Brown and Henry Balcom were elected trustees. Chas. Perkins was elected clerk of the society, James Perkins, treasurer and Calvin Cole, collector. The first place of worship was the school house. The church was erected in 1836 and '37 and was dedicated March 22d, 1837. Outwardly the church remains unchanged, but the inside was renovated and modernized in 1852, and it is undergoing extensive repairs at the present writing. The clergymen who have served the society as pastors are Rev. Nelson Doolittle, 1833-'34; Rev. Skeel, 1835; Rev. J. T. Goodrich, 1836-1849; Rev. A. W. Bruce, 1850-'51; Rev. Chas. E. Hewes, 1852-'56; Rev. J. G. Bartholomew, 1856-'58; Rev. A. J. Canfield, 1859; Rev. B. L. Bennett, 1859-'60; Rev. Daniel Ballou, 1861-'63; Rev. F. B. Peck, 1864-'69; Rev. J. W. LaMoine, 1872-'74; Rev. R. F. Kingsley, 1875-'77; Rev. J. M. Clark, 1879-'80; Rev. Uri Mitchell, 1881-'85, and 1887-'88; Rev. Amanda Deyo, 1889-'91; Rev. Charles Palmatier, 1892-'93; Rev. L. M. Clement, June, 1894, to June, 1895. The present pastor, Rev. J. L. Scoboria, commenced his pastorate September, 1895.

1884; East Jaffrey, N. H., 1885-'87; Henniker, N. H., 1888-'89; Westmoreland, N. H., 1890-'95, settling in Oxford September, 1895.

**The Ladies' Aid Society,** First Universalist Church, was organized March 24, 1891, its object being to aid in the support of the church and its missionary endeavor. The first officers of the society were. President, Mrs. Ruth Buckley; vice-president, Mrs. C. L. Webb; secretary, Mrs. W. A. Clarke; treasurer, Mrs. Samuel Cline. The society, though small, has, by the activity of its members, not only accomplished its object, but has greatly assisted in the maintenance of the church. The present officers are. President, Mrs. S. H. Mead; Vice President, Miss May Webb; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Lemira Lewis.

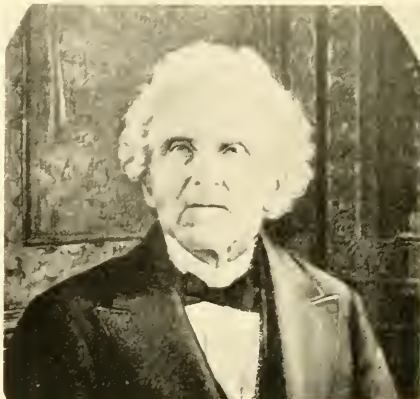
**The Fort Hill House,** a three story building with large columns, together with the store of Rufus Baldwin, the hat store of Peleg Glover and the cabinet shop of John Y. Washburn, standing on the hill at the east end of the river bridge, were burned on the morning of May 13, 1839.



WM. G. SANDS, M. D.

**William G. Sands.**—Bainbridge, in this county, was the birthplace of William G. Sands, and November 5th, 1810, the date of his birth. His father, Obadiah Sands, afterwards changed his residence to Meredith, in the county of Delaware, from which place the son was at school in both the Delhi and Oxford academies, and finished his academic course at the latter in 1830. He began and completed his study of medicine with Dr. Perez Packer, then well known here for skill and success in his profession. Having been admitted to practice he opened an office in the hotel known as the Fort Hill House, which not long afterwards was destroyed by fire. Austin Rouse and Samuel R. Clarke were in practice here and William Mason and Henry Mitchell at Norwich, and he soon reached a prominent position in his profession, as their worthy associate. After a successful practice for more than twenty years, he withdrew from its active pursuit, but continued to be called as counsel, in which capacity his advice was much sought by his brethren. He was married October 26, 1839, to S. Eliza, daughter of Henry Mygatt. Dr. Sands was elected in 1846, as one of the members from this county to represent it in the Assembly. In his political association he acted with the Democratic party, and was its nominee for Congress in 1858, in this district, where a Republican majority was almost a foregone conclusion. After his withdrawal from the active pursuit of his profession, Dr. Sands took much interest in political and financial questions and was a close observer of public men and well informed in regard to public measures. He held his opinions, both in his professional practice and otherwise, with a firm grasp. In the later years of his life he was much occupied with the care of a considerable estate of his own, and as guardian and trustee of the estates of others, in which capacity he rendered valuable and useful service, with great probity and fidelity. He died on the 14th day of June, 1889, and his wife, July 2d, 1890. Both survived two daughters of the marriage. The third and youngest, who survived the parents, and died not long since, was joined in marriage with Joseph E. Packard, who resides upon the old homestead on Washington Park, with two daughters and a son of the first marriage, and the wife of a second.

**Henry R. Mygatt.**—Henry R. Mygatt was born in Oxford, N. Y., April 10, 1810, and was the son of Henry Mygatt, who came here early in the century from New Milford, Connecticut. His mother was Sarah Stephens Washburn, who was a native of Massachusetts, and died some years before the son reached his majority. He was prepared for college at Oxford Academy when David Prentice was the principal, and had among his mates at school, Horatio Seymour, Ward Hunt, John W. Allen, Henry W. Rogers and others whose names became prominent in the records of the state and nation. After about two years as a student at Hamilton College, he entered and was graduated from Union with Henry S. Randall, Benjamin F. Rexford, George D. Beers and Robert C. Livingston, names familiar in official and professional life to a generation not long past. He at once began the study of law in his native village with James Clapp, who had been a student in the office of Aaron Burr, and who was well accounted for learning and integrity. Mr. Mygatt's certificate to practice as an attorney in the Supreme Court of this state, bearing the name of John Savage, Chief Justice, has date at Albany, January 15, 1833. He began practice at once in his native village and continued the same there for forty years and until constant and persistent devotion to his work compelled a reluctant withdrawal from the active pursuit of the profession which he so greatly loved and honored. A life long friend who had known him intimately and often met him in practice, has left on record his estimate of the chief elements of his professional life in these words: "His success was due to honest, hard work, to an energy that never tired, a tenacity of purpose which never yielded except to the mandate of a court of last resort, combined with integrity never even tainted with suspicion." Mr. Mygatt was married Dec. 2, 1835, to Esther Maria, daughter of John Tracy, sometime Lieutenant-Governor of the state. Their home on Washington Park, for many years before his death, dispensed a generous and delightful hospitality, well known beyond mere local limits. His practice of the law, which reached the Supreme Court of the nation, was pursued with a constancy and ability which brought a well earned income. During many years a considerable part of this was devoted to the educational and religious welfare of



HENRY R. MYGATT.

Copied from a Painting.

his native town not only, but reached out to objects of a like nature in places quite remote. His many smaller gifts were dispensed with a generous hand along the pathway of his busy life. His frequent benefactions to Oxford Academy, of which for nearly forty years he was a trustee and, in turn, secretary and president, included for some time a fund set apart for the education of meritorious students who needed help. Mr. Mygatt never sought political place. At the solicitation of many he was once elected Supervisor of his town, when its welfare seemed to call for his service. There were times when a high judicial place seemed to require only the reaching forth for him to obtain it. The high character and learning of Mr. Mygatt were well and fitly recognized by Hobart College, in the bestowal, in 1870, of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. He ever had a helpful hand and kindly word for his younger brethren in the law. His death occurred the 31st day of March, 1875. Judges and lawyers who came to his burial testified of his worth; better still the regretful tears of those who had known and felt the

that, though yet in its infancy, it has representatives in almost every state and territory, and many abroad. The Oxford branch, as a registered state study club, is also favored in its connection with the State University, from which it has drawn a traveling library upon each course adopted. Its membership is limited to fifteen, including the usual officers and committees, the few rules necessary to its management being included in a short constitution and by laws. Regular semi-monthly meetings are held from October to June, comprising papers, readings and discussions, one original paper being expected from each member during the course. In the three years since organization two full courses of study have been completed, viz: Five Representative American Authors and The English Drama and Shakespeare. It is in the latter subject that the best work of the club has been shown, both in the preliminary study of the earlier dramatists, as well as in the intelligent interpretation of the principal plays of Shakespeare, to all of which two years of work have been given. A course on Ven-



Photo by Graeff.

JOSEPH E. PACKARD'S RESIDENCE.

touch of some thoughtful benefaction, lifting them with renewed hope to higher vantage ground in the life-battle. It told anew, how much better it is to be writing while we may, our names on the plastic tablets of living, grateful hearts, than to leave them only to be traced in bronze, or cut in cold, pale marble above our graves.

**The Round Robin Reading Club.**—The Oxford Chapter of the Round Robin Reading Club is but a modest member of an organization claiming for itself illustrious pedigree, for it is the later product of that generous culture which has given the New Century Club of Philadelphia international reputation as a social and educational force. The Round Robin Reading Club was founded in 1894, the purpose in view being the promotion of systematic literary culture through home-reading and study. To this end, schedules upon the subject elected are issued by the director in Philadelphia and each member is urged to submit the result of their work to her for criticism, individual effort being further stimulated by the regular meetings of the club. The popularity of the system is indicated by the fact

ice is planned for the next year, to begin in October. The record of the "Round Robin" has thus far justified the hopes of those who, in its inception, aimed to help in perpetuating along the broadening lines of modern culture those traditions of a past day and generation which have made Oxford an honor to her historic name.

**The Tool Factory.**—There are many excellent opportunities for locating industrial enterprises in Oxford. Not many years ago a hoe and edge tools factory, which had a world-wide reputation, was conducted on a large scale, turning out a large annual production. The late William M. Martin was the secretary of the company, and later, part owner of the establishment. Mr. Martin was at one time railroad commissioner of the town which office he resigned when he went to Binghamton. He sold out his interest in the factory to engage in the hardware business. He was trustee of the Congregational church and the academy. He was born in Coventry in 1831 and died in Binghamton in 1889, where his widow, who has many friends in Oxford, is still living.

**F. G. Clarke Blue Stone Co.** (Oxford, Chenango county, N. Y.)—Of all the various stones used in this country for building and pavement purposes, none have obtained a wider range of distribution than the New York Blue Stone, being used in nearly every state in the Union, and a city or town of any importance in the eastern, middle or southern states, where it has not been used would be hard to name.

While New York Blue Stone is accepted everywhere on its own merits, but little is known by its consumers of its geological formation, the extent of territory in which it is found, and the methods of quarrying and preparing it for market. The first Blue Stone Quarry was opened about 1840 in Albany county, N. Y., where small, thin layers of flag, easily obtained from the upper strata of the quarry, were taken out for local use.

Nearly a decade passed before any shipments were made to New York and adjoining cities, where its superiority for side-walks, curbing and cross-walks was quickly recognized, and it rapidly displaced the mica slate flagging and gneiss-rock curbing, the product of Connecticut, then in general use.

As trade increased, more quarries were opened along the Hudson River, and the stone became known as "Hudson River Blue Stone" (and later as "North River Blue Stone"), on account of the locality where first found and from its color. The constantly increasing demand exhausted the quarries of easy access to the river transportation, necessitating the opening of quarries situated at greater distances from the river, materially increasing its cost at that time.

A state geological survey demonstrated that this so-called "Hudson River Blue Stone" belt extended across the state from Albany and Kingston on the east to the Delaware River on the south and the Chenango River on the west, and within

this belt an inexhaustible deposit of this stone was found in the Chenango Valley at Oxford, where nature seems to have been particularly favorable in creating a blue stone unexcelled in quality, color or dimensions by any other deposit in the so-called "Hudson River" or "North River" belt. Owing to the improved methods of quarrying, modern facilities for handling and transportation, it can be placed in distant markets at a moderate price.

Blue Stone is a hard sand stone, classified by geologists as fragmental rock of the upper Devonian age and of the Hamilton group. It is a fine-grained, compact, even-bedded stone of more or less hardness, composed principally of silica or quartz, cemented together by a silicious paste and contains very little argillaceous matter, the color being generally of a bluish or dark gray, depending on the locality. The deposits lie in quarry beds, ranging from one inch to many feet in thickness, the top beds producing the thin stone used for flagging. In many cases the thick strata or lower beds can be split along planes parallel to the bedding by means of wedges, but a few quarries, the Oxford quarry in particular, also produce a liver rock of such fine grain and uniform texture that it can be worked equally well in all directions. Owing to its formation, blue stone is very durable, has great power of resistance to compression, is so compact that it absorbs very little moisture, drying quickly after rain or snow, has the hardness to resist abrasion and wears well. Being even bedded, it presents a good smooth surface; but unlike granite, slate or the limestones, it never becomes slippery and dangerous when used for side-walks.

A crushing test of stone from the Oxford quarry made under the supervision of the assistant engineer employed in testing material for the pedestal of "Liberty Enlightening the World," in 1884, showed as follows:

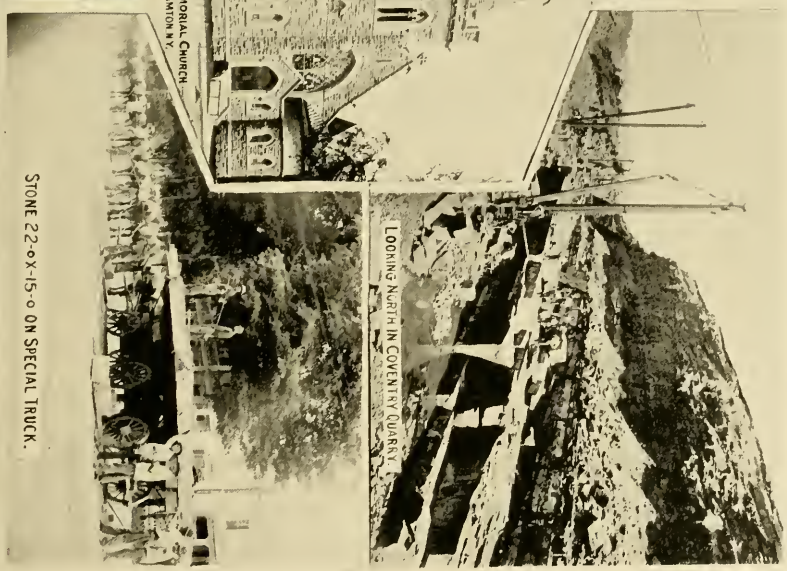




SOUTH END COVENTRY QUARRY.



STONE 22-o-x-15-o ON SPECIAL CAR.



LOOKING NORTH IN COVENTRY QUARRY.



STONE 22-o-x-15-o ON SPECIAL TRUCK.

First cube, 3 in. x 2,936 in. x 2,786 in. 8,180 square inches.  
Second cube, 3 in. x 2,770 in. x 2,770 in. — 7,609 square inches.

Third cube, 4 in. x 2,888 in. x 2,802 in. 8,009 square inches.

No. 1 bore a strain of 103,700 lbs. before crushing on its quarry bed.

No. 2 bore a strain of 103,600 lbs. before crushing on its quarry bed.

No. 3 bore a strain of 98,310 lbs. before crushing, not on its quarry bed.

The first stood a strain of 12,677 lbs. to the square inch.

The second stood a strain of 13,472 lbs. to the square inch.

The third stood a strain of 11,152.7 lbs. to the square inch.

After testing the stone from this quarry in 1890,

Hon. John C. Smock, economic geologist of New York State Museum, Albany, N. Y., made this report:

Specific gravity.....	2.741
Weight per cubic foot.....	178.9 lbs.
Absorption of water.....	1.11 per cent.
Freezing and thawing test.....	No effect.

W. E. Gifford, chemist, New York City, analyzed the stone as follows:

Silica.....	77.50
Alumina.....	10.65
Oxide of Iron.....	4.50
Oxide of Manganese.....	.09
Lime.....	.34
Magnesia.....	1.22
Potassa.....	1.15
Soda.....	.90
Water.....	1.63
Undetermined matter and loss.....	.57
	100.00

The quarry at Oxford was opened about 1874 and operated in a small way until about 1880, when Mr. F. G. Clarke commenced operations and a few years later the firm of F. G. Clarke & Son was formed, which firm was succeeded in 1890 by the F. G. Clarke Blue Stone Co. (not incorporated). This company operates the largest two blue stone quarries in the United States, also two smaller quarries, all situated in the town of Oxford.

The main quarry is near the village of Oxford and produces principally large platforms and heavy liver rock up to about five feet in thickness. The face of the quarry is about one thousand feet in length, and the quarry is thoroughly equipped

with steam derricks, steam drills and other modern quarrying machinery.

The Coventry quarry is located in the southern portion of the town of Oxford, about one mile from Coventry station, and has a frontage of over one thousand feet. This quarry produces medium sized platforms, heavy rock and all kinds of flagging and small stones.

The two smaller quarries are operated mainly as flagging quarries.

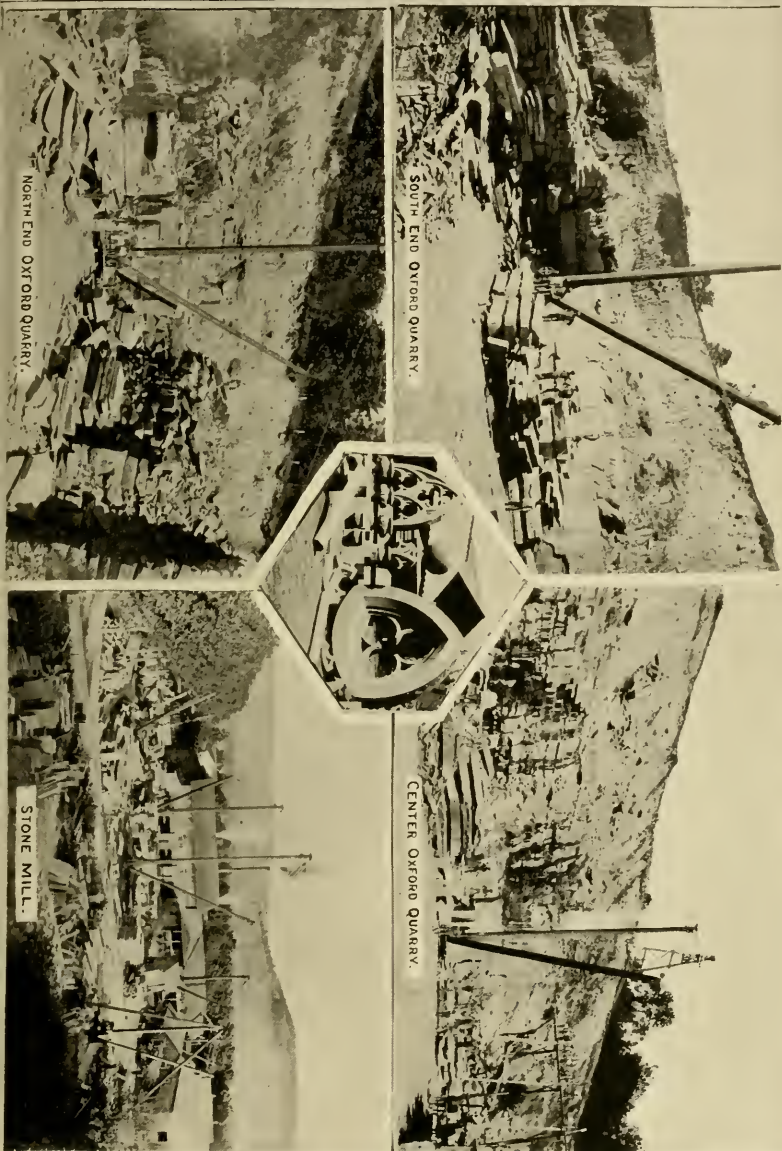
The mill, situated in the northwesterly portion of the village, near the main quarry, is thoroughly equipped with saws, planers, rubbing bed, pneumatic tools, etc., and is lighted by gas. Here the stone are manufactured into mill stock or finished ready for placing in the building.

A car, planned to carry a sidewalk stone twenty-five feet by fifteen feet, has been constructed, which enables the company to ship stones of greater size than could be transported on an ordinary platform car.

The F. G. Clarke Blue Stone Co. quarry almost all of the stone handled by them, securing a uniformity of color and quality, avoiding the many variations which necessarily occur when the stones are collected from many localities and put on the market from a general depot.

The F. G. Clarke Blue Stone Co. make a specialty of large platforms, heavy dimension rock and finished work, taking contracts for the cut stone for a building dressed ready for setting in place. They employ a large number of skilled workmen and have produced some very fine work, among which is the stone work in the Oxford Bank and the Trinity Memorial Church, Binghamton, N. Y.

Many of the largest sidewalks in New York City, Brooklyn, Boston and Philadelphia have been furnished from the Oxford quarry. This company can ship stone direct to any railroad point via rail, or to coast cities by water from New York City, and are prepared to name prices for stone delivered on cars at Oxford or at destination.





## THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

[P. P. NEWKIRK.]

ON the first day of July, 1823, the following resolution was adopted by the board of trustees. "Resolved by a majority of the trustees and inhabitants as aforesaid, that the freeholders of the village of Oxford be and they are hereby authorized to levy a tax not exceeding five hundred dollars upon the freeholders and inhabitants of the village of Oxford for the purchasing of a suitable fire engine and hose, ladders and fire hooks, and erecting a fire engine house according to the act of incorporation. At the same meeting of the board of trustees it was resolved that every dwelling should be provided with one or more "leather fire buckets" for the benefit of the village in case of fire and to be used for no other purpose. In case of a lease, the tenant could charge the expense of the bucket or buckets to the landlord and deduct the amount from the rent. On October 21, 1823, the tax was assessed and levied; and at this meeting it was resolved that Garrett H. Van Wagenen and Ransom Rathbone be empowered to purchase in New York or elsewhere a fire engine with the necessary hose and apparatus upon the credit of Oxford village, at a price not exceeding three hundred and twenty-five dollars. On March 5, 1824, a resolution was passed by the board of trustees levying a tax of five hundred and ninety-six dollars for the purchase of the fire engine. On March 8, 1824, the first fire company was organized by the appointment as firemen: Daniel Shumway, Austin Hyde, Erastus Perkins, George Hunt, Uri Tracy, Jr., Charles Tracy, Amos A. Franklin, Anson M. Howard, John VanWagenen, George Farnham, Thomas G. Newkirk, Romeo Bowen, Henry Mygatt, Franklin Tyler, Erastus Miller, Cyrus Tuttle, Ira McNeil, Daniel Peck, Asahel I. Hyde, Asher Harmon and Marcus Sherwood.

On April 15, 1824, there was appropriated fifty dollars to build an engine house on Fort Hill, near the "gun house." On May 16, 1825, the board provided a key to be deposited in the engine house for the purpose of unlocking St. Paul's church in order to give the alarm in case of fire by ringing the bell.

**The First Reservoir.**—On May 16, 1836, a resolution was voted on by the freeholders and inhabitants of the village authorizing the trustees to build a reservoir and repair the engine. The reservoir was built of timbers, 30 ft. long, 10 ft. wide and 7 ft. deep, and lathed and plastered, but it proved a failure. On May 31, 1837, the village voted on raising five hundred dollars for repairing the old engine or buying a new one, procuring two poles for carrying buckets, and repairing ladders. The vote was probably against the resolution.

### NOTICE OF CORPORATION MEETING.

In pursuance of the request in writing of fifty-eight electors of the village of Oxford the freeholders and inhabitants of the said village are hereby notified to meet at the hotel of Thomas Morris, in said village, on Saturday, the 9th day of August, next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of raising a tax to purchase a site for the engine house and of the erecting a suitable house and of purchasing a fire engine of sufficient power and dimensions with the necessary appurtenances.

Oxford, July 23, 1845.

HENRY R. MYGATT, President.  
JOHN VANWAGENEN  
C. A. BACON  
ELIAKIM NORTHRUP  
C. F. T. LOCKE  
C. WALKER

The records from May 31, 1837, to August 9, 1845, cannot be found. On August 9, 1845, at a

meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants held at the hotel of Thomas Morris, it was "Resolved, that it is expedient to re-organize the fire department of the village of Oxford: that the fire engine belonging to the village of Oxford is unfit for use and is entirely inadequate to the preservation of the property of said village against the ravages of fire." The following persons were appointed a committee to report at a future meeting what should be done upon the subject of the call of this meeting: John Tracy, Ira Wilcox, Henry L. Miller, John Y. Washburn, G. Vanderlyn, Rufus Baldwin, S. McKoon, E. Clarke, David Brown and Geo. A. Cary. It was "Resolved that the committee report in two weeks, August 23rd, also that this meeting adjourn to meet at the same place, August 23, 1845, at 2 o'clock p. m. On August 23, 1845, at an adjourned meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of the village of Oxford pursuant to adjournment, a quorum of the board of trustees being present, the committee appointed the 9th inst. reported they were not in possession of sufficient information to make a full report and wished two weeks further time, which, on motion, was granted. The meeting adjourned to meet at the same place on Saturday, September 6, 1845, at 2 o'clock p. m., at which date it was held at the hotel of Thomas Morris, the following trustees being present: Henry R. Mygatt, C. F. T. Locke, E. Northrup and J. VanWagenen. The committee reported through John Tracy, their chairman, that they had not received sufficient information to report. On motion of H. Vanderlyn it was resolved unanimously that the sum of six hundred dollars be levied by tax on the freeholders and inhabitants of this village for the purchase of a new fire engine with needful hose and appurtenances. It was "Resolved, that the trustees of the village be hereby authorized to dispose of the old fire engine belonging to this corporation for such a price and on such terms as the major part of the trustees shall deem proper, and apply the sales moneys to the purchase of the fire engine, hose and its appurtenances."

**The Morris Hotel Fire.**—On October 3, 1845, the hotel of Thomas Morris was set on fire and on October 4th the trustees offered a reward of one hundred dollars to be paid on the conviction of the person "who last night set fire to said hotel, to be paid to the person who shall discover the offender, and that the secretary sign and cause to be printed and posted fifty copies of a notice of said reward and draw on the treasurer for the expense of printing and posting the same." Also: "Resolved that C. F. T. Locke, J. VanWagenen and C. A. Bacon be a committee to purchase the fire engine and hose required by the vote of the electors of this corporation at their last meeting and that before they complete a purchase they submit their action and advice in the premises to this board."

**Meeting to Raise More Money.**—In pursuance of a vote of the trustees of the village of Oxford, the freeholders and inhabitants of the said village are hereby notified to meet at the hotel of Thomas Morris in said village on Monday, the 2nd day of February, next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, "for the purpose of raising an additional tax to purchase fire engines, repairing and erecting engine houses, procuring ladders, buckets, fire hooks, all other necessary apparatus and repairing reservoir."

HENRY R. MYGATT, President.  
HENRY BALCOM  
E. NORTHRUP  
C. F. T. LOCKE  
C. WALKER  
JOHN VANWAGENEN

Trustees.

At the above meeting, February 2, 1846, it was unanimously "Resolved that the trustees of said village be and they are hereby authorized to raise in addition to the sum of six hundred dollars,





authorized to be raised at a meeting of the free holders and inhabitants of the village of Oxford held on the 6th day of September last, two hundred and fifty dollars—in whole eight hundred and fifty dollars—said amount to be raised by tax and said amount to be appropriated by the said trustees of said village to the purchase of a fire engine or fire engines, repairing and erecting engine houses, procuring ladders, buckets, fire hooks, all other necessary apparatus and repairing reservoir in such manner as to said trustees may seem proper." At a meeting of the trustees at the office of Henry R. Mygatt, March 20, 1846, Joseph G. Thorp, Daniel Dudley and John Y. Washburn, a committee from the present Fire Engine Co., were present and expressed to this board the wish of said company to take charge of the new engine or one of the engines intended to be purchased by said board under the present charter of said company, and upon such terms as may be agreed upon by and between said company and the board. At a meeting of the trustees duly held at the store of Charles F. T. Locke, April 28th, 1846 Henry Balcom, Clerk, pro tem., it was stated that "Henry Waterman of Hudson, would furnish this corporation with one engine to be delivered at Albany in October, next for \$700, said engine to have 7½ inch cylinder, man 12 men, weigh 1900 pounds, throw a one-inch stream of water 170 feet and near 400 gallons per minute, to be made in the best manner of St Domingo mahogany, well polished, with brass mountings with wrenches and pipes and all the apparatus complete." On motion, it was resolved "that the committee on engines be and are hereby authorized to purchase said engine of Mr. Waterman." At a meeting of the trustees held July 15, 1846, at the store of A. Watson, it was resolved "that J. G. Thorp and F. A. Sands be a committee to enquire into the expediency of putting the new engine into the care and keeping of the present engine company and report at the next meeting." At a meeting of the trustees on the evening of the 25th of August, 1846, at the store of A. Watson, present, J. G. Thorp, C. A. Bacon, A. Watson, Wm. McCalpin, W. Roberts and F. A. Sands, it was "Resolved, that whereas, in consideration of representations made to this board by a committee of the Oxford Fire Company, duly appointed by said company, that the said fire company will fully equip themselves according to their by-laws, and in filling up the vacancies hereafter existing in their company will be governed by the reasonable advice of this board, and do all that they, as a fire company, should do, provided the new engine lately purchased by the Trustees of the Village of Oxford, shall be placed in their hands for good keeping, the safety of the village and the use of the said company, therefore, be it further Resolved, that the new engine be put into the hands and keeping of the Oxford Fire Company, to be used by said company for the safety of the village, to be subject at all times to the control of the trustees, and nothing in this resolution shall be construed so as to invalidate the right and title of the corporation to said engine." On Oct. 5, 1846, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees, a committee of three was appointed to examine the situation and condition of the present engine house, and if they find it necessary to have it removed from its present location, to select another location, and also to provide some place for the keeping of the old engine, and report at the next meeting.

**Locating the Engine House**—At an adjourned meeting held Oct. 7, 1846, the committee reported that Messrs. S. & C. Lewis will allow the trustees the privilege of placing their engine house on their lot back of the Baptist church. It was "Resolved, that the President be authorized to con-

tract for the removal of the engine house to the lot back of the Baptist church, at a price not exceeding ten dollars." J. A. Thorp, Wm. McCalpin and W. Roberts were appointed a committee to examine the engine house after it is placed on its new location and to contract for the necessary repairs and painting the same. At a special meeting Oct. 5, 1846 it having been ascertained that objections are made to placing the engine house on the lot of S. & C. Lewis, as voted at the last meeting, and Ira Wilcox having consented that it may be placed on his lot, between the Presbyterian church and the house occupied by Charles Hackett, it was "Resolved, that the engine house be removed to said lot, and that the President be authorized to contract for the removal of the engine house to the said lot at a price not exceeding ten dollars"; also, "Resolved, that the Treasurer be instructed to pay to Henry Waterman, of Hudson, N. Y., the sum of \$705. At a meeting of the board held at the store of E. P. Wilcox, it was resolved to pay Washburn & Beebe's bill for painting engine house; also Daniel Dudley, \$2. for putting addition on engine house; also \$2.25 for freight on engine, and \$10 for moving engine house. On March 13, 1847, a committee was instructed to purchase for the fire department one piece of hose 12 feet long and one piece 50 feet long; also to contract for a suitable hose cart and a feeder or trough for the use of the engine. On May 19, 1847, the trustees were authorized to sell the old engine at public or private sale. On Nov. 5, 1847, the electors of the village voted to raise \$100 for repairs on engine and hose cart.

**The Niagara Company.**—The following is a list of members of the new engine company, called the "Niagara Fire Company, No. 1," approved by the board Nov. 1, 1855: Henry Vanderlyn, jr., F. P. Newkirk, F. B. McNeil, F. S. Youngs, N. B. Eccleston, J. W. Glover, John Smith, E. V. Green, C. W. Sweet, John Hubbard, D. B. Smith, M. Gomes, M. Higgins, Wm. Norris, R. A. Crandall, S. Bolls, S. H. Millard, Charles P. Smith, H. Packer, L. Newkirk, A. Bly, J. B. Wheeler, E. Puffer, L. P. Wagner, D. P. Holdridge, F. G. Clarke, R. T. Davidson, J. Allen, Sam Rogers, W. B. King, E. H. Hawley, W. L. Daniels, A. M. Lathrop, T. Baker, W. F. Allen, Wm Gillman, J. A. Wiswell, H. F. Balcom, C. B. Maynard, E. M. May, H. Lyon, E. C. Wilcox, E. M. Osburn, R. Tracy, Thos. Pettis, B. Potter, J. Rathbone.

**Lady Washington Engine.**—On Oct. 1, 1855, the "Lady Washington" engine was received from Mr. Waterman of New York city for inspection, and as it proved satisfactory a draft was forwarded to him for \$325. On receipt of the "Lady Washington," it was noticed that she had a nice painting on the tower and that the "No. 1" was also nicely lettered. It was then resolved that the Lady Washington should be called Engine No. 1 and Niagara called No. 2. The fire department was reorganized, the Lady Washington No. 1, having 27 members and the Niagara No. 2 44. The chief engineer, assistant engineer, clerk and treasurer were elected April 4, 1859. On April 22, 1859, the present building was rented and all of the fire apparatus was housed there. The officers then were John R. Clarke, Chief Engineer, W. S. Thompson, Assistant; N. B. Eccleston, Clerk; Wm. Balcom, Treasurer. On Oct. 13, 1859, it was resolved that the Board of Trustees, in their own behalf and as representatives of the citizens of Oxford, tender their thanks to the members of the "Lady Washington Fire Engine Co." for their liberality and public spirit displayed in the procuring of their new and beautiful hose cart.

**A Contest.**—On the 14th of July, 1859, there was a celebration at Oxford, when there was a contest

between a company from Norwich and the Niagara and the Lady Washington of Oxford, as to which engine would throw a stream of water the highest over the "liberty pole," which was 105 feet high and stood 150 feet from the canal, along the dock of which the engines were placed. The Niagara was manned by the heaviest men in town and just as her stream of water reached the "brush" on top of the pole—"Bang!" her air chamber had burst.

**Additional Reservoirs.**—On June 2, 1860, a contract was made with Newkirk & Co., to build three reservoirs for the sum of \$662. On April 13, 1861, 450 feet of new hose, one discharge pipe, two branch butts, 4 cut offs and two nozzles were purchased at a cost of \$525. On Feb. 29, 1864, 4 ladders were purchased at a cost of \$38.21.

On March 14, 1875, Niagara Hose Co. became a separate organization.

**The New Engine House.**—On March 27, 1867, a vote of the electors of the corporation was taken for the purpose of levying a tax of \$1,600 for the purchase of site and erecting a suitable building for a new engine house, 76 voting for the tax and 32 against it. The same date it was resolved by the board to purchase the Fort Hill building at a sum not exceeding \$1,500, and that a tower be erected on the building at an expense of \$450.

Sappho Hose Co. was organized Feb. 27, 1873, with 15 members.

On May 13, 1873, the Lady Washington sold their hose cart to the corporation for \$50.

In 1880, the Silsby Pump was placed in the Lewis mill and 1,200 feet of iron pipe was laid and put in condition for fire purposes.

**A New Steamer.**—On the 20th of April, 1888, the inhabitants voted an appropriation of \$3,000 for a steam fire engine, and in November following the steamer was received. The fire department then consisted of the Steamer, Sappho Hose, Lady Washington, Niagara Hose, Hook and Ladder Co. and 122 men.

**Chief Engineers.**—John Ray Clarke, 1859; Amos A. Hitchcock, 1860; A. F. Bartle, 1861; Solomon Bundy, 1862-'63; F. P. Newkirk, 1864-'66; W. H. VanWagenen, 1867; A. J. Hull, 1868-'69; C. M. Brown, 1870; W. A. Martin, 1871; L. A. Knott, 1872-'74; J. G. VanWagenen, 1875-'76; LeRoy Coville, 1877; A. S. Lewis, 1878; H. O. Daniels, 1879-'84; J. R. Glover, 1885; H. O.



E. L. GRAEFF (One of the Viewers for THE SOUVENIR).

Daniels, 1886; C. Hemingway, 1887; J. W. Cudworth, 1888; J. R. Glover, 1889-'90; Charles Hemingway, 1891; C. S. Hayes, 1892-'94; J. W. Bissikummer, 1895; F. H. Burchard, 1896; J. R. Glover, 1897.

**Oxford Hook and Ladder Company** was organized June 25, 1875. The charter members were: L. A. Coville, F. P. Newkirk, A. H. Brill, C. M. Gray, E. C. Delavan, Geo. F. Gillman, H. A. Curtiss, L. A. Knott, F. E. Billings, Ira W. June, N. B. Eccleston, O. M. Westover. The present officers are: J. D. Smith, foreman; Frank Beadle, assistant foreman; F. P. Newkirk, secretary and treasurer. They now have a membership of thirty-one.

**Lady Washington Engine Company** organized May 6, 1859, by the election of F. P. Newkirk, foreman; D. B. Smith, assistant foreman; W. H. Van Wagenen, secretary; Geo. Rector, treasurer; C. B. Maynard, engine master; H. H. Houghton, steward. After thirty years of service it was disbanded. The members were: J. O. Stratton, W. S. Thompson, D. B. Smith, A. J. Sands, Aaron Newkirk, J. Rheinwald, C. M. Gray, E. Puffer, G. W. Lewis, H. D. Walworth, T. Chapman, A. I. Hunt, George Rector, Wm. Balcom, D. C. Bronson, N. B. Eccleston, T. I. Sperring, O. M. Westover.

**Phoenix Legion, No. 136**, order of the National Protective Legion, was organized May 4, 1896. The order is a fraternal society, which pays disability loans and death benefits. It convenes in the rooms over Robinson's market, the first and third Thursday evenings of each month. At this writing it has thirty-two members in good standing.



JOHN E. MILLER'S RESIDENCE.



## "GRIP'S" VALLEY GAZETTE.

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VAN WAGENEN, MISS HELEN.

WELCH, E. L.

The Views in this Souvenir were made by A. R. Burke and E. L. Graeff, both of whom are first-class photographers. A great amount of work and considerable care was exacted, and both gentlemen were especially painstaking, recognizing the fact that the character of THE SOUVENIR depended a great deal on their workmanship. In towns the size of Oxford, too little attention is paid to photography; but here the rule is the reverse. This is undoubtedly owing to the fact that the two photographers understand their business, and generally get excellent results.

**Strange, but True.**—On the evening of Dec. 31, 1874, a handsome silk banner was presented to Sappho Hose Co. by a former visitor in town, Miss Charlotte Mulligan, of Buffalo. A year previous to this event the lady had promised a silk banner to the company if its members would abstain from intoxicating liquors for the period of one year. Great preparations were made for celebrating the occasion in a fitting manner.

**Impressions.**—My impressions on first visiting Oxford, were of a pleasant nature, and after a two years' residence here I find no occasion to think that they were far from correct. Few villages of its size offer such inducements to those seeking for a home or a location for manufacturing purposes. It keeps abreast of the times in all modern improvements and conveniences. Its well lighted streets, beautiful shade trees, fine stone walks, pure water in abundance, and intellectual society, all make it an ideal place for a home; while these, together with its shipping facilities, offer superior inducements to the manufacturer to bring his business here. Its people are thrifty and progressive, and while there is room for improvement, its citizens are justly proud of their village.—[J. L. SCOBORIA.



PLAN OF FORT.

**The Indian Fort.**—Among the Indian antiquities of Chenango county the most interesting one is, perhaps, an earthwork fort in Oxford, the remains of which were found on a mound covering two and a half acres, some thirty feet in height, called Fort Hill Square. This hill adjoins the river on the east side near the center of the village. The fort contained about three fourths of an acre of land and was heavily timbered with beech and maple trees in 1788. At an early date outlines of breastworks from seven to ten feet in thickness were seen. The form of the fort was semi-circular, with its base upon the river. Its curved side was encircled with a well defined ditch about four feet deep, except at the ends, where smooth spots ten feet wide were left for gateways. The stump of a large pine tree remained on which could be counted nearly two hundred grains or circles, proving its origin later than the fort's, which was probably from 300 to 400 years old. Its position was a strong one, both for observation and defense, and the view up and down the river extensive and beautiful. The line next to the river was fifty rods in length. Tradition connects this fort with the Antoine family as the seventh generation from its occupants. A giant chief called "Thick Neck," is said to have occupied it, a deadly foe of the Oneidas. Human bones, cooking utensils and other relics have been found near by when excavations were made.—[JOHN E. MILLER.

Not a Few Valuable Facts printed in this Souvenir were obtained from very interesting articles compiled by Mr. Henry J. Galpin and published in a series of sketches in the *Oxford Times*. They are entitled "Annals of Oxford," and contain much rare data and information of early settlers.

An Historical Souvenir, such as this, is one of the best means for setting forth to the world at large the advantages of a town or city as a place for residence or the employment of labor. The growth of a town increases property valuations, enlarges the field of trade and improves the community morally and intellectually. It means that every person engaged in buying and selling will be benefited—more mouths to feed and more persons to clothe.

We Are Greatly Indebted to the ladies and gentlemen of Oxford who have taken kindly to this work and given it their hearty support. It has required considerable patient effort by the contributors as well as the publisher, and we feel assured that THE SOUVENIR will be received, generally, with satisfaction. We have done the best we knew how to make it a credit to the village, sparing neither time nor expense. Those who fail to appreciate the scope of such a work are few in numbers in Oxford. They were not raised in that village.



## THE OXFORD DIRECTORY.

## OFFICIAL.

**County**—Judge, Albert F. Gladding, Norwich; District Attorney, W. B. Matterson, Bainbridge; Clerk, Jay G. Holmes, Norwich; Sheriff, Zenas Tarble, Afton; Deputy Sheriff, Uri VanTassell, Oxford; Treasurer, Stephen Wilcox, Smyrna; Member of Congress, George W. Ray, Norwich; Assemblyman, Jotham P. Allds, Norwich; Senator, John Grant, Delaware county; Coroners, R. A. Harris, Norwich, L. C. Andrews, Pitcher, P. A. Hayes, Afton, T. B. Fernald, Norwich; School Commissioners, 1st district, Dennis Thompson, Staunton; 2nd district, Charles Clinton, Smithville Flats.

Fitts, Church, Hayes; Fire: Church, Hayes; Streets, Walks and Parks: Fitts, Dodge.

**Board of Education**—President, C. W. Brown; Treasurer, Peter V. Newkirk; Clerk, Wellington Alexander; Commissioners, John W. Thorp, M. D., F. T. Corbin, Jared C. Estelow, Clark E. Bartlett, Albert S. Burchard, John J. Lillis, Wm. K. Jacobs, Alexander D. Wands. **Committees**—Finance: Estelow, Jacobs, Wands; Teachers: Thorp, Estelow, Burchard, Brown; Text Books: Brown, Corbin, Estelow, Thorp; Library: Jacobs, Thorp, Burchard, Lillis; Tuition: Lillis, Bartlett, Corbin; Apparatus and Natural History: Wands, Bartlett, Burchard; Official Reports: Burchard, Lillis, Jacobs; Janitor: Corbin, Lillis; Repairs and Supplies: Bartlett, Wands.



## THE CHURCHES OF OXFORD.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL.  
FIRST UNIVERSALIST.

CONGREGATIONAL AND CHAPEL.  
THE CATHOLIC

FIRST METHODIST.  
FIRST BAPTIST.

**Town**—Supervisor, Tracy L. Cone, South Oxford; Town Clerk, M. L. Whitney, Oxford; Overseer of Poor, P. J. Conover, Oxford; Justices, H. J. Stratton, Sylvanus Moore, John R. Glover; Assessors, George L. McNeil and H. W. Mead, South Oxford, and H. F. Crumb, Oxford; Collector, Fay L. Brown; Overseer of Bridge, Martin Church; Constables, Frederick Rorapough, James Redmond, Philip Stafford and G. R. Wheeler.

**Village**—President, C. M. Dodge; Clerk, L. A. Knott; Treasurer, F. H. Burchard; Corporation Attorney, S. S. Stafford; Trustees, C. H. Church, F. L. Fitts, C. S. Hayes. **Committees**—Finance:

## FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL.

**Attorneys**.—Brown, C. W., Bank building; Dunning, R. A., Washington park; Glover, John R., Fort Hill block; Hyde, Wm. H., Washington park; Stafford, S. S., Bank building; Stratton, H. C. & V. D., Bank building.

**Commercial Gas Light Co.**—President, F. T. Corbin; Secretary and Treasurer, A. S. Burchard.

**Express Co's.**—Adams, S. Canal, A. H. Brill, agent; United States, D., L. & W. depot, G. P. Mead.

**First National Bank**.—President, J. R. Van Wageningen; Vice-president, F. G. Clarke; Cashier,

Jared C. Estelow; Bookkeeper, P. V. Newkirk; Clerks, W. L. Van Wagenen and Mrs. Catharine Aylesworth; Directors, Francis G. Clarke, W. H. Van Wagenen, J. R. Van Wagenen, Cora D. Hayes, Wm. Miller, H. W. Clarke, Gilbert J. Parker.

**Insurance.**—Excelsior Mutual Life Association, Bank building: President, Charles W. Brown; Vice President, Frank T. Corbin; Secretary, William K. Jacobs; Treasurer, Charles O. Wilcox; Medical Director, John W. Thorp, M. D.; Supt. of Agencies, DeWitt P. Preston; Special Agent, J. C. Phillely; Board of Directors, Charles W. Brown, Frank T. Corbin, John R. Van Wagenen, Hon. William F. Jenks, Hon. Elliot Danforth, Richard M. Clark, M. D., Charles O. Wilcox, Frederick H. Burchard, Millard D. McNeil, John W. Bissikummer; Assistant Secretary, F. A. McNeil; Clerk, Miss May Van Deusen; Stenographer, Miss Lottie McFarland.

A. C. Lewis, Bank building.  
S. S. Stafford, Bank building.  
J. R. Glover, Fort Hill building.

**Opera House.**—W. M. Miller, proprietor; Harry Tew, Manager; George Holdrede, Stage Manager; A. Morse, Assistant Manager; J. D. Beckwith, James Morgan, M. H. Gibbon, H. C. Tew, ushers.

**Oxford Times.**—T. B. Galpin and Wellington Alexander, editors and proprietors; C. H. Holmes, Herbert Tansey, Charles Lett, John G. Walker, staff.

**Oxford Electric Light Co.**—President, J. G. Van Wagenen; Secretary, F. L. Gamage; Treasurer, C. E. Bartlett.

**Physicians.**—Ensign, E. L., Clinton; Gleason, D. A., Washington; Greene, T. J., State; Miller, R. E., Washington; Thorp, J. W., Mechanic and Merchants; Purden, Jas. A.

**Post-Office.**—Herbert Emerson, Postmaster; Miss Hattie C. Jacobs, Assistant.

**Telegraph and Telephone.**—Dedrick, F. J.; George Dunn, Messenger, Main.

**Photography.**—Burke, A. R., Main street; Graeff, E. L., Lafayette square.

#### MERCANTILE.

**Books.**—Galpin, H. J., Main.

**Billiards.**—Bentley, J. J., Fort Hill square.

**Bakery.**—Quackenbush, G. W., proprietor, N. Canal street, Miss Grace Quackenbush, clerk.

**Bicycles.**—Burchard Bros., Main; Morton, S. J., Main; Brill, A. H., S. Canal; Bartlett, C. E., Main; Bissikummer, J. W., N. Canal; Cronk, W. E., Main.

**Cereals.**—New York Food Co., Main street, F. W. Bartle, manager.

**Commission Dealer.**—Dwight D. Morley.

**Clothing.**—Cooper & Hitt, Main; E. D. Moore, Lafayette square; M. Pyursky, Main, John Byrne, clerk; E. M. Rider, Lafayette square, Fred. Bartle, clerk.

**Coal.**—Mrs. Marania Greene, Lafayette square, Thomas Torrey, driver; Clarke, Mead & Co., F. G. Clarke, G. P. Mead, F. T. Corbin, proprietors, George Lamb, driver.

**Drugs.**—J. W. Bissikummer, N. Canal, A. L. Kirchner, Ernest Cooper, clerks; Corbin & Smith, W. A. Jones, pharmacist.

**Dry Goods.**—W. M. Miller, Lafayette square, H. A. Curtiss, clerk; C. O. Wilcox, Main, G. J. Stratton, J. D. Smith, clerks.

**Fruit.**—J. Flang, S. Canal.

**Furniture.**—Pettis & Co., Main, T. C. Pettis, and R. H. Bills, proprietors, M. H. Gibbon, cabinetmaker, Moore, driver.

**General Merchandise.**—F. T. Corbin and M. B. Smith, LaFayette square, W. A. Bentley, bookkeeper, W. F. Powers, Earl Mack, Mable Norton, I. I. Ogden, W. A. Jones, L. E. Jones, Martin Church, clerks.

**Gentlemen's Furnishings.**—G. B. Angell and R. H. Baldwin, Main, La Verne Shepard, clerk.

**Grocers.**—Carl, W. A. and Cronk, W. E., Main, Lee Bixby, clerk; Lillis, J. J., Main, John Coogan, John Roach, clerks; Loomis & Cowles, Lafayette square; McNeil, M. D., Main street, M. L. Whitney, B. M. Emerson, clerks.

**Hardware.**—Burchard Bros, F. H. & A. S., J. Sherman, clerk; Bartlett, C. E., Will Gibbon, F. L. Brown, clerks; Boname, W. P., Arthur Brown, clerk.

**Harness.**—Knott, L. A., Lafayette square, Mr. Patrick, assistant; Harrison, J. A., Lafayette square.

**Ice Cream.**—Bentley, Mrs. J. J., Fort Hill square.  
**Jewelers.**—Coville, L. R., and Moore, S., Lafayette square; Morton, Harvey, Main, S. J. Morton, assistant.

**Livery.**—Redmond, J. J., Washington ave Ropapaugh, Fred., Taylor; Hoag & Hitt, Fort Hill.

**Masons' Supplies.**—Tew, James, Water.

**Meats.**—Church, L. B. & Dowd, P. J., Lafayette Square; Cronk, C. & Tew, E., Main; Robinson, T. W., Main, L. D. Robinson, John Ray, assistants; Shufelt & Son, Main.

**Merchant Tailor.**—Brown, T. A., Main, Miss Crosby, assistant; Cooper & Hitt.

**Millinery.**—Nowlan, Mrs. M. J., Lafayette square, Miss Sarah Lett, Miss O'Brien, assistants; Sherwood Mrs. C. W., Main, Mrs. W. Dedrick, Miss Kate O'Connor, Miss Emma Sherwood, assistants; Swan, Miss S. J., Main, Miss Julia Swan, Miss Susie Wilcox, assistants.

**Notions.**—Aldrich, M. D., Main, Robert Randall, clerk; Harrington, O. B., Main.

**Real Estate.**—Merithew, J. S., Clinton.

**Restaurant.**—Webb, C. L., Main, Thomas Keenan, chef.

**Saloon.**—VanWagenen, J. G., and Millard, F. S., Main; Fraser, Charles, Main.

**Sewing Machines.**—Hopkins, J. A., Mechanic.

**Asa P. Hyde Machinery Agency.**—Asa P. Hyde, superintendent, Will M. Hinman, bookkeeper, proprietors; E. M. Roberts, foreman; F. L. Mowry, engineer; R. B. Stratton, H. L. Nash, machinists; I. C. Roberts, blacksmith; W. N. Bowers, wood-finisher; John Hatch, W. J. King, John Porn, C. L. Brown, C. Bowers, M. Bowers, B. L. Prince, Claude Hamlin, John Porter, James Knight, Harry Blakeslee, C. M. Aldrich, C. Youngs, wood-workers.

#### INDUSTRIAL.

**Barber.**—Dedrick Bros., F. H. & W. C., Main; Husted, M., Main; Lewis, C. E., Main; Rivers, — Main; Spence, R. E., N. Canal.

**Blacksmith.**—Dunne, M. P., Main; Lewis, John, S. Canal; Walker, Fred, N. Canal.

**Bill Poster and Decorator.**—Tew, Harry, Scott.

**Boots and Shoes.**—Fraser, Henry, N. Canal; Zacharias, E. S., Main.

**Builder.**—Buckley, W. P., State; Fitts, F. L., Albany; Church, C. H., Taylor street.

**Bus.**—Beadle, F. E., Scott.

**F. G. Clarke Blue Stone Co.**—Employees: Edward Hollywood, George Cummings, Dell Holmes, Patrick McWilliams, Chas. Flogan, Philip Gallagher, Joseph Brackett, Garry McDonald, Edward Crystal, Michael Burns, Jr., Edward Kearney, Evans Sherman, Jno. O'Connor, Eugene Hickey, Thomas Callahan, Wm. Cowdry, N. J. Hall, C. Whitney, James Feeney, James O'Brien, Michael Dunn, Timothy Rogers, Thos. Shapley, Charles Mead, Thomas Kearney, Henry Hanrahan, Seymour Fleming, Mike Bush, Fred Martin, Matt Flannigan, Patrick Burns, Art. Burns, Patrick O'Connor, John Murtough, James Dunn, Robert Crandall, George Cook, George Graves, John Murphy, Wm. Moore, P. Bofford, John Brown, John Walker, L. V. Stratton, N. C. Thornton, Robt. Wells, H. Thornton, Chas. Cooper, W. Nes-

mith, F. Newkirk, Chas. Johnson, Wm. Tansy, Claude Wilder, James Lafferty, George Sweezy, Theodore Wands, Martin Dunn, Patrick Rooney, Eugene West, E. B. Johnson, Chas. Perkins, Robt. Norton, Ed. Feeley, Bernard Burns, James Smith, Fred King, Samuel Davis, N. G. Hopson, Charles Uch, Thomas Kearney.

**Carting.**—Crosby, M., S. Canal; Mowry, I. A., Scott; Youngs, Seymour, O. & W. station.

**Chemist.**—Brewster, E. C., Washington avenue.

**Chirocycles.**—Pearne, B. M., N. Canal.

**Cigars.**—Mulligan & Co., Main.

**Carriage Painter.**—Burnap George, S. Canal.

**Dentists.**—Thompson, Dr. C. E., Lafayette square; Eccleston, C. H., Clinton.

**Extract Co.**—Main street, W. C. Dedrick, President, F. N. Dedrick, Secretary and Treasurer.

**New York Condensed Milk Co.**—Manager, J. N. Decker; J. B. Beckwith, J. S. Tracey, A. Parker, E. Waters, W. Burlison, J. Morgan, M. W. Dolan, E. Benedict, W. Ingraham, B. Reilley, F. Carpenter, G. Clark, G. Franklin, B. Hurlbert, C. Fields, H. Tew, M. Mudge, L. Gibbon, W. Ryan, B. Storcks, G. Ingraham, G. Brown, I. Beebe, H. Winchester, R. Morse, J. Taylor, H. Land, I. L. Dalton, W. Savage, C. Gale, H. Walworth, C. Bartlett, H. Hunt, L. Cashman, M. Bartlett, L. Root, A. Hicks, J. Champlain.

**Oxford Basket Works.**—Munyon & Yates, proprietors; employes—Belle Dunning, Maud Kent,



STATE STREET.  
MECHANICS' STREET.  
CHENANGO STREET.

GROUP OF STREETS.

SCOTT STREET.  
MERCHANT'S STREET.  
WASHINGTON AVENUE.

Photos by Burke and Graeff.

**Dressmaking.**—Hill, Mrs., Main; Ingraham, Mrs. George, State; Aylesworth, Miss Vesta, Clinton; Race, Mrs. L. E., Main.

**Glover & Oldfield Quarry.**—John R. Glover and James Oldfield, proprietors; employes: Frank Dowd, Thos. Dowd, Jr., Chas. Jones, Lynn Clarke, Andrew F. Keyes, Perry Dixon, Tony Fandro, Bartley Callahan.

**Green House.**—Race, Derrick, Albany

**Job Printing.**—Burke & Stafford, Main; Galpin & Alexander, *The Times*.

**Lumber.**—Church, Charles H., Taylor, Irwin J., Church, Wm H. Church, George Simpson, employes: Pearsall, E. A., Chenango.

**Milk Dealers.**—Bullock, S. A., Washington avenue; Manzer, L. H., Judson Root.

Sarah Paul, Minnie Paul, Martin Milan, Alfreda Parks, Lillie Parks, Ruth Wells, Rosa Briggs, Jessie White, Ethel Kent, Joseph Collingwood, Maud Collingwood, Charles E. Brooks, Charles Sturgess, Mrs. C. Daly, Frank Sturgess, Lena Root, Florence Wilder, Luella Sperry, Wallace Sperry, Howard Littell, Abel Corbin, Lewis Rathbun, Tillie Smith, Katy Dalton, John Byrnes, Kittie Wilder, Mrs. I. A. Perkins, Rose Tracy, Frank Murphy, Mrs. James Taylor, Mary Callahan, Walter Littell, Cora Crosby, Rosa Crosby, Anna Murphy, Mabel Guile, Charles Furbush, Bertha Squires, Viola Bowers, Henry Purdy, Andrew Peterson, Leroy Bowers, George E. Dunning, H. L. Aldrich, Charles Hooper, Edith G. Felton, Dora Walling, Cora Boname, Adah





Photo by Burke.

THE TOWN BOARD.

Humiston, Joseph Dunn, Harry Munyan, Bruce Humiston, Robert Johnson, Marion White, Daniel Ingraham, George Moulton, S. D. Felton, Leon Jones, Ernest Munyan, L. B. Ward, Clarissa Ward, Willie Frazier, Charles Humiston, William Chester, J. R. Yellie, Clarence Bushnell, James Ponn, Sarah Powers, Edith Beardsley, Maggie Bowers, Jessie Curtis, Louise Squires, Grace Bowers, Carrie Shufelt, Grace Dunning, Ella Manzer, Sara Byrnes, Dolly Tansy.

**Oxford Steam Laundry.**—N. Canal. Rugg, Geo. P., proprietor, Geo. H. Ingraham, Mrs. Leon Tillotson, assistants.

**Painter.**—Walker, C. B., N. Canal.

**Painter and Paper Hanger.**—Blood, L. E., Albany; Nichols, F. A., Taylor; Tew, Harry.

**Tailoress.**—Doheney, Miss S. J., Main.

**Tinner.**—Titus, B. S. Canal.

**Union Tooth Co.**—Dr. C. H. Eccleston and E. G. Eccleston, proprietors; Sarah Moulton, Lucy Boname, Lonie Kent, Charles Grannis.

**Hotchkiss House.**—LaFayette sq., Taft, R. W., proprietor, A. B. Bennett, clerk.

**Park Hotel.**—Washington park, John Storch, proprietor, Frank Milan, clerk.

**St. James Hotel.**—LaFayette sq., Brewster Bros., Z. C. & E. S., proprietors, John Ferguson, clerk.

**The Lackawanna Orchestra** was organized October 25, 1894. The present membership consists of W. P. Boname, trombone and prompter; E. F. Eccleston, cornet; R. M. Eccleston, clarinet; E. L. Walker, first violin and leader; A. B. Olds, second violin; James E. Dunne, bass and manager. The orchestra



Photo by Burke.

THE LACKAWANNA ORCHESTRA.

deserves liberal support.

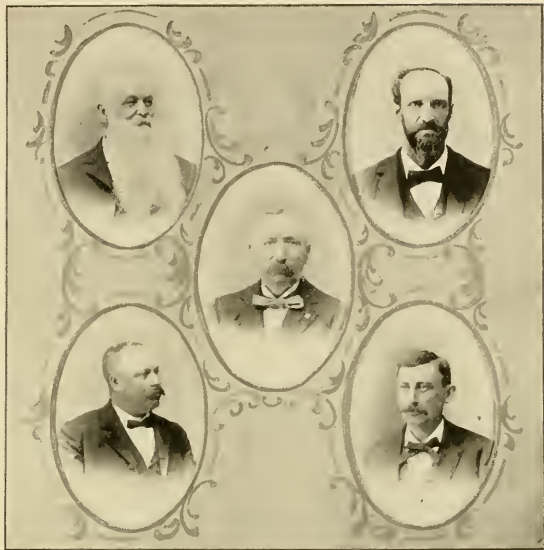
**The Water Works** was completed Oct., 18, 1897, by M. B. Birdseye & Son of Fayetteville, N. Y.; contract price about \$22,000, the work occupying six weeks, a record rarely surpassed. The supply consists of two springs, three miles north of the village, at an elevation of 300 feet above it. The capacity is about 8,000 or 10,000 gallons. A reservoir 200 feet above the village and a quarter of a mile distant is connected with the main by a 'Y' pipe. It has the capacity of nearly one-half million gallons, and is a reserve supply for fire purposes. The pressure from the springs is 80 lbs. to the square inch. There are nine miles and 600 feet of four,

six, eight and ten inch pipe, and forty-eight hydrants.

**The Town Board.**—TRACY L. CONE, the Supervisor, was first elected in 1891 and subsequently in 1895. He was postmaster and station agent at South Oxford for seventeen years and served as Justice of the Peace in 1893-'5. He married Anna R. Randall in 1895. SYLVANUS MOORE, Justice of the Peace, is a jeweler. He was appointed October, 1889, and elected in 1890, and has served as inspector of elections. HARVEY STRATTON, Justice of the Peace, has served as inspector of elections and taught school. He married Fannie Copeland in 1876. JOHN R. GLOVER was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1892, elected in 1893 and re-elected the following year for the full term of four years. MILTON L. WHITNEY, clerk, was elected in 1895. He married Carrie Boname in 1893.



**Joseph Jefferson Literary Circle.**—In the autumn of 1891 twelve ladies of the village of Oxford formed a reading society. No preparatory work was required, but one evening in each week they met for pleasant and profitable reading. The first book taken up was "Autobiography of Joseph Jefferson," and was enjoyed so much that the suggestion to call the society "Joseph Jefferson's" met with unanimous approval from the members. The society has increased in members to seventeen, electing annually a president, vice president, critic, and a committee of three members to select the reading for the year. During the six years the society have read current literature, English and American history, standard authors, and several of Shakespeare's plays. The meetings are called October 1st and close about the middle of May. This society was the first of its kind in the village, and its promoters feel that its influence has been good, from the fact that other similar societies have since been formed with large memberships.



THE BOARD OF VILLAGE TRUSTEES.

(See Directory, p. 35. for Names.)

## THE MASONIC FRATERNITY.

(T. B. GALPIN.)

**O**XFORD LODGE, No. 175, F. & A. M., was organized under a dispensation and held its first regular communication December 16, 1861. It was the successor of Chenango Valley Lodge of the same number, which had surrendered its charter a short time previous. Its first officers were: W. M., Levi P. Wagner; S. W., John Ray Clarke; J. W., Daniel E. Comstock; treas., Wm. B. Race; sec., Wm. A. Martin; S. D., Andrew B. Olds; J. D., Alton D. Root;

S. M. C., H. H. Houghton; J. M. C., Fred P. Newkirk; tyler, Charles Fraser.

The following named, with the above officers, were charter members: G. H. Perkins, Charles Johnson, Dwight H. Clarke, Wm. S. Thompson, Erastus J. Berry, O. P. Miner, Elhanan Puffer, Solomon Bundy, Daniel B. Smith and Charles B. Eaton.

The lodge held its meetings a short time in the rooms formerly occupied by Chenango Valley lodge in the second story of a building that stood on the corner of premises now owned by J. E. Packard, on Washington Park. They removed from there to rooms in the Clarke block, and in the afternoon of June 17, 1862, held a public installation of officers in the old Episcopal church,

which stood near the present academy and high school grounds. Rev. A. A. Benedict, of St. John's Lodge, Bridgeport, Conn., then located in Norwich, delivered the address and there were present Deputy Grand Master Clinton F. Paige, of Binghamton, and a large number of visiting brethren from neighborhood lodges. On December 29, 1862, the lodge removed to rooms in the third story of the Lewis block, a portion of Lewis' hall having been cut off and fitted up for lodge purposes. An incident of their occupancy of these rooms was the festival given by Oxford lodge during the holiday season. The lodge rooms and



JOHN E. MILLER'S BOAT HOUSE.



Photos by Burke.

## THE CLERGY OF OXFORD.

REV. C. B. PARSONS.  
REV. J. L. SCOBORIA.

REV. W. T. SUTHERLAND. REV. J. H. LITTELL.

REV. E. W. COLLOQUE, D. D.

hall adjoining were thrown together for dancing, refreshment and social intercourse, and a large assemblage of visiting brethren and citizens with their ladies enjoyed the hospitality extended, which is remembered to this day. A goat occupied quarters in the ante-room, and was the subject of much comment and many recollections. In 1882 the lodge removed to rooms in the second story of a building on North Canal street, owned and fitted up by James B. Brown. This was their home for thirteen years, and in 1895 they again removed to their present quarters in the third story of the First National Bank Building. These rooms have been especially fitted up for lodge and chapter purposes, and include a parlor and kitchen. They have been furnished and decorated from time to time, and now are one of the finest and best arranged lodge rooms in this section. The first communication was held here April 8, 1895. The present officers are: W. M., W. K. Jacobs; S. W., S. J. Pickett; J. W., S. H. Mead; treasurer, Geo. P. Mead; secretary, L. A. Knott; chaplain,

S. S. Stafford; S. D., M. H. Gibbon; J. D., C. G. Eccleston; S. M. C., M. L. Whitney; J. M. C., John S. Tracy; marshal, C. M. Dodge; organist, B. M. Pearne; tiler, H. Tew.

Trustees—M. D. McNeil, S. S. Stafford, C. M. Dodge.

Finance Committee—T. B. Galpin, F. H. Burchard, W. E. Cronk.

Past Masters—\*L. P. Wagner, \*John Ray Clarke, F. P. Newkirk, A. B. Olds, B. M. Pearne, James B. Brown, L. A. Knott, L. R. Coville, \*J. A. Coville, C. M. Dodge, \*D. M. Lee, H. O. Daniels, S. S. Stafford, F. L. Gamage, M. D. McNeil, W. K. Jacobs. [\*Deceased.]

Its communications are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Starting with twenty charter members, its lodge register now numbers 287.

Oxford Chapter, No. 254, R. A.:

M., held its first convocation under dispensation June 6, 1870, and was duly constituted Feb. 14 1871. Its first officers were: H. P., S. F. McFarland; K., James B. Brown; S., L. R. Coville; Treasurer, G. H. Perkins; Secretary, D. M. Lee; Chaplain, Rev. T. P. Halstead; C. of H., Jas. A. Preston; P. S., L. A. Knott; R. A. C., J. A. Coville; M. of 3d V., Thomas L. Moore; M. of 2d V., Benajah Landers; M. of 1st V., Derrick Race; Tiler, Hiram E. Lewis.



Photos by Burke.

## THE OXFORD PARSONAGES.

THE CONGREGATIONAL.  
THE BAPTIST.

THE METHODIST.  
THE UNIVERSALIST.

The charter members were: John Ray Clarke, Horace Packer, D. B. Smith, F. P. Newkirk, J. A. Preston, Elihu Cooley, G. H. Perkins, E. J. Berry, Derrick Race, Geo. H. Rogers, Norman Ford, Clark T. Rogers, John F. Leitch, Peter W. Clarke, John C. Maxon, S. F. McFarland, M. D., Samuel E. Lewis, Benajah Landers, Andrew B. Olds.

The Chapter registry number is now 104. Its stated convocations are held on the first and third Mondays. Its present officers are: H. P., L. A. Knott; K., Z. C. Brewster; S., B. F. Edwards; Treasurer, L. R. Coville; Secretary, B. M. Pearne; C. of H., A. D. Wands; P. S., C. M. Dodge; R. A.

lodge was established and working in Oxford as far back as 1815, of which Oxford Lodge now holds a few records. The Grand Lodge proceedings show that a petition for a lodge to be held at Oxford, Chenango county, to be known as Widows' Son Lodge, was made March 3, 1813. About this time there was also in existence here a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, known as Harmony Chapter. From this brief sketch it will be seen that Masonry has had a long and useful career in Oxford, with but little interruption. The rolls show the names of many townsmen who gained distinction in the varied walks of life, and who long since have been



Copied from Paintings and Old Photos.

JAMES A. GLOVER,  
EPHRAIM MILLER,  
HENRY VAN DER LYN.

THE BUILDERS OF OXFORD.

JAMES CLAPP,  
ETHAN CLARKE.

(Burke, Photos.)  
GARRET VAN WAGENEN,  
HENRY BALCOM,  
ANSON CARRY.

C., Geo. P. Mead; M. of 3d V., S. H. Mead; M. of 2d V., E. H. Beardsley; M. of 1st V., A. E. Holcomb; Chaplain, L. H. Rogers; Organist, B. M. Pearne; Sentinel, H. Tew; Past High Priests, F. P. Newkirk, S. F. McFarland, L. A. Knott, Jas. B. Brown, D. M. Lee, C. M. Dodge, L. R. Coville. A feature of the Chapter meetings is the serving of refreshments at every convocation and the sociability that prevails among its members at the conclusion of labor. Several times during the year "ladies' nights" are held, at which the fair sex enjoy the hospitality of the Chapter.

Previous to the dates above given a Masonic

summoned to a higher lodge, and the old records contain many items of interest to the craft.

**Builders of Oxford.**—Our readers will be glad to see a group of pictures of the pioneers of Oxford. It is impossible to obtain photographs of the very first settlers, and there are many which can be had, that might be reproduced with great propriety. Lack of space has forced a selection; we are sure all will be glad to see the faces we present. As nearly as we are able to decipher records, we present brief sketches of these early settlers in the order of their appearance in Oxford. ANSON





THE EPISCOPAL PARSONAGE.—Residence of Rev. E. W. Colloque.

CARY was a Revolutionary soldier, who came here in 1793. Born in Connecticut 1762, and died in Oxford, May 3, 1842. Mr Cary was the first blacksmith in the settlement, and later on was County Judge, Sheriff and Justice, for many years. HENRY BALCOM was son of Francis Balcom, the first person to receive a deed for land in the town of Oxford. He was born in Oxford, January 18, 1798, and died, January 26, 1878. "For forty-two years he gave to Oxford Academy his ceaseless, tireless energies and the benefit of his wise counsels.—Academy Records." EPHRAIM MILLER came to Oxford, 1800. Born, Glastonbury, Connecticut, 1778, died Oxford, July 5, 1860. Mr. Miller was engaged in the drug business with Samuel Farnham, 1807-9 and afterward in general merchandise business until 1843, a part of the time in partnership with Thomas G. Newkirk and later with his son, Henry L. Miller. JAMES A. GLOVER came to Oxford in 1802. Born in Plainfield, Ct., 1793. Died at Oxford May 23, 1875. He was a mechanic of exceptional skill, and conducted a blacksmith shop for many years, in which David Maydole, the widely known manufacturer, learned his trade. Mr. Glover was identified with the growth of the village and was a trustee of Oxford Academy. He accumulated considerable property. HENRY VAN DER LYN came to Oxford 1806. Born, April 21, 1784. Died, October 1, 1865. He was a lawyer, possessed of good talents and great acquirements. "He was the best equity lawyer the village ever had, Henry R. Mygatt excepted." JAMES CLAPP came to Oxford 1808. Born, Hartford, Connecticut, December 5, 1785. Died, January 3, 1854. He studied law with Aaron Burr, and was always known as a strong defender of that strange man. ETHAN CLARKE came to Oxford from Brookfield, Madison

county, 1822. He was a general merchant until his death, February 5, 1855. Associated with him at different times were Henry Balcom, Ebenezer Sherwood, Joseph H. Dwight, Frederick A. Sands and James W. Clarke. GERRIT H. VAN WAGENEN came to Oxford 1822. Born, January 21, 1753. Died, November 30, 1835. He erected the first hardware store in town; also built grist and saw mills, and was interested in woolen and carding mills. For a few years Mr. Van Wagenen was engaged in the hardware business; he was interested in the purchase and sale of real estate.—C. B. PARSONS.

**St. Paul's Parish.**—The following resumé is taken from the Oxford Times of July 26, 1837, but with some erasures for want of space, and some additions, to bring the record to the present time. It was prepared for "The Annals of Oxford" by Mr. Henry J. Galpin, and has been pronounced substantially correct: The first meeting, held with the view of organizing this Parish, convened at the house of Abijah Lobdell, Jr., May 23, 1814. Capt. Frederick Hopkins and Capt. John Backus were elected wardens; and Ebenezer Hull, William M. Price, John Spoor, John Church, Peter Burgot, Gen. Ransom Rathbone, Chauncey Morgan and Abijah Lobdell, Jr., were elected Vestrymen. The Rev. William B. Lacy then officiated during one-half of the year in the Academy. A choir was formed, with Capt. Farnham, Austin Hyde and Gen. Rathbone as first, second and third choristers, respectively. Efforts were early made to procure a suitable place of worship. Henry Van Der Lyn interested himself in the circulation of a subscription, and on Feb. 23d, 1815 the amount subscribed having reached \$1,995, a committee was appointed

H. C. STRATTON'S RESIDENCE.  
GEORGE B. COE'S RESIDENCE.

J. J. DICKINSON'S RESIDENCE.

to receive proposals for the erection of a building. March 21st, 1815, a contract was entered into to build an edifice, 40 by 50 feet, for \$2,200. The site selected was on the common in Fort Hill Square, a



on lands conveyed by the village trustees. The building was completed and consecrated by Bishop Hobart, Sept. 8, 1816. This was the first church erected in Oxford. Early in 1842 the church building was moved to a site near by, purchased from the Academy; the first location having been chosen more from necessity than from beauty. This building was later moved to Chenango Forks, where it still does duty, changed and beautified, as the house of God. The present church building stands two blocks from the first site, on lands ample and beautiful, donated by the Clapp family; a most picturesque corner at the south-west end of Washington Park. The church is of stone, and is noted far and wide for its graceful lines, neat surroundings and rich adornments. It was begun in 1856 and consecrated Oct. 14, 1857. The Rectory stands to the west of the church; it is a frame building of ample dimensions and semi-ecclesiastical style of architecture, and now has the usual complement of closets, although it is said it had none at first, as the building was constructed during the incumbency of a bachelor rector, who had too many large, unoccupied rooms to feel the need of narrow closets. Back of the church and facing another street is the building used as a Parish House, Sunday school room and chapel. This was finished in 1860. In 1861 the iron fence about the church property was set up at a cost of \$1,505. In 1873 \$4,000 was subscribed for the purpose of erecting a stone porch and bell-tower to the church. In 1870 a new organ, costing \$3,200, was purchased. In 1877 the interior of the church was decorated, and a new bell hung. And during the incumbency of the present rector, the side-walls of the church have been decorated anew, all the windows have been filled with rich memorials, handsome furniture has been added, including a silver communion service, brass lectern, pulpit, prayer-desks, cross and vases, and communion rail and electrolier for the chancel. All these are memorials. The church building has also been "re-pointed," and parts of the edifice, notably the tower, have been re-built. The following have been the successive rectors of this church: Rev. William B. Lacy, D. D., 1814-1818; Rev. Leverett Bush, D. D., 1818-1842; Rev. Thomas Towel, 1842-1844; Rev. T. R. Chipman, 1844; Rev. B. W. Stone, D. D., 1845-1850; Rev. S. Hanson Cox, 1850-1853; Rev. M. Van Rensselaer, 1853-1854; Rev. S. Hanson Cox, 1854-1857; Rev. D. H. Macurdy, 1857-1865; Rev. Walter Ayrault, D. D., 1865-1875; Rev. R. M. Duff, S. T. D., 1875-1879; Rev. J. M. C. Fulton, S. T. D., 1879-1882; Rev. E. W. Colloque, the present rector, who entered upon his charge in April, 1883. Church Officers and Committees [1897-8]: Wardens—Francis G. Clarke, William H. Hyde. Vestrymen—John R. VanWagenen, F. H. Burchard, C. G. Eccleston, C. W. Brown, Noyes B. Eccleston, J. E. Packard, J. A. Hopkins, L. A. Knott. Standing Committees: Finance—F. G. Clarke, C. W. Brown, L. A. Knott; Church Buildings and Grounds—F. G. Clarke, Wm. H. Hyde, J. A. Hopkins, C. W. Brown; Church Seats—C. W. Brown, C. G. Eccleston, L. A. Knott; Water Pipes—C. G. Eccleston, F. H. Burchard, J. E. Packard; Decorations—J. E. Packard, J. A. Hopkins, N. B. Eccleston, F. H. Burchard; Music—The Rector, J. E. Packard, C. W. Brown; Sexton—F. H. Burchard, N. B. Eccleston, C. G. Eccleston; Permanent Funds and Insurance—J. R. VanWagenen, L. A. Knott; Altar Committee—Mrs. C. H. Eccleston, Mrs. J. R. VanWagenen, Mrs. E. W. Colloque. The stated meetings of the Vestry are held on the last Tuesday in each month at 7:30 P. M.

**The Rev. E. W. Colloque, D. D.**, the present rector of St. Paul's church, Oxford, N. Y., was born in Philadelphia and spent his early boyhood in that city, in New Jersey and in New York. He was

graduated from St. Stephen's College in 1871, and the General Theological Seminary in 1876, and received the degrees of Master of Arts, Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity from St. Stephen's, the General Theological Seminary, and Wesleyan College, respectively. In 1876 he married Miss Mary Louisa Orrok. They have one child, a son, Orrok Paul Colloque, who is a member of the class of 1899 of Trinity College, and organist of St. James' church, Hartford, Conn. Mr. Colloque's first charge was St. Paul's church, Medina, Ohio, where he remained nine years and saw erected a rectory and beautiful stone church. Returning from a trip abroad, he took charge of St. Paul's church, Fremont, Ohio, and then of St. Mark's church, Cleveland, Ohio. Thence he was called to St. Paul's church, Oxford, in 1885, where he remains contented "till his change comes."

**The Junior Auxiliary**, St. Paul's church, is a branch of the general organization, which is under the direction of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions. Its branches are scattered over the United States, the headquarters, however, being in New York City. The object of this society is "to interest and instruct the youth and children of the church in missions, and to impress upon them as members of the same a sense of their responsibility." The Oxford branch, formed October 25, 1896, is the outcome of the union of two societies, the Honor Society and The King's Daughters. The Honor Society, established in May, 1886, by eight young girls, with Marion R. Brown as president, pledged itself to work for Honor Cottage, Syracuse. Money was raised and boxes of clothing and bedding were sent twice a year to this institution.

**The King's Daughters.**—The circle of The King's Daughters, established in October, 1891, with eleven members and Mary McC. Eccleston as president, hold themselves ready for work at home or abroad. Besides the gates at the entrance to Riverview cemetery and money contributed to the church at home, donations of money and clothing were sent to Mrs. Buford's school in Virginia, to the Nebraska sufferers of 1895, and to needy families nearer home. These societies now continue their work under the name of the Junior Auxiliary, with a membership of twenty-two, the officers as elected in October being: President, Helen M. VanWagenen; vice-president, Bertha M. Gifford; secretary, Clara M. Tew; treasurer, Anna M. Hopkins. The work done since October last has been the raising of money by suppers, socials and ice-cream festivals, and sewing for missionary boxes. The money raised has been contributed this year, as assessed by the general organization, to Mr. Dantzer, missionary to deaf mutes in this State; Miss Wilson, teacher, in St. Augustine school, Raleigh, N. C.; Archdeacon Joyner, for his work among colored people in South Carolina; Dr. Walrath, Africa, and towards expenses of the church in central New York. Money has also been given to the Sunday school at home. As a result of the Lenten sewing, a box of 25 garments was sent to Mrs. Buford's school and hospital for colored people in Virginia, and at Christmas time a box containing presents for 18 boys was sent to the Pine Ridge Indian agency in South Dakota. While the main object of the Auxiliary is to foster a loving sympathy for the unfortunate whom we do not know, a no less important one is to show ourselves ready for any work, however small, among those who may be near. These objects the society hopes to attain more nearly in the future than in the past.

## OXFORD ACADEMY.

[Contributed by WM. H. HYDE.]

OXFORD ACADEMY was planted in the wilderness by strong, true men, who mingled with the men who bore arms to achieve our independence, and heard from their lips the fresh story of the American Revolution. Samuel Miles Hopkins, the first lawyer who began practice here, in a letter to a friend, gave, among other reminiscences of his advent to the place, the following: "I settled at Oxford as a lawyer. In such a village as this, the first framed building was an academy of two stories high and Mr. Tracy was the teacher." The application for the charter, signed by Benjamin Hovey and seventy-seven others, has date Janu-

its board of trustees was held the second Tuesday of April, 1794. The first President was Benjamin Hovey, and the first principal of the new school was Uri Tracy, a graduate of Yale. A select school had been taught by Mr. Tracy since late in 1792, in a building erected largely by the exertions of Mr. Hovey and a few other early settlers. This building stood midway of the northwest side of what is now Washington Park, and continued in use as the academy for several years only. The need of a larger building soon became known, and the lot with the first structure was sold and exchanged for a new site on the southwest end of the common, near the present residence of Joseph E. Packard. The second academy was erected upon this lot in 1799, only to be destroyed by fire soon after its completion, and was never occupied. The exact date of the fire does not appear, but early in January, 1800, prompt action was taken



THE RIVERSIDE WHEELMEN'S RACING TEAM. (See Page 76.)

H. A. HUNT.

W. G. AUSTIN.

P. V. NEWKIRK, Manager.

S. J. MORTON.

J. B. SHERMAN.

O. A. THOMPSON.

W. E. GIBBON.

ary 12, 1793, but was not presented to the Regents of the University of this state until early the following year, by the same Mr. Hopkins delegated for that purpose. As the names which the petition bore far exceeded in number the male residents in the new settlement, it had doubtless been in search of signers in the region around and beyond, in the months which elapsed before it reached Albany. In the interval which followed the date of the petition, the new town of Oxford was erected from the old town of Jericho, of which it had been a part, and Oxford, in deference to Mr. Hovey, who had come from a town in Massachusetts of that name, was assumed as the name of the new town and of the academy, as well. Oxford Academy was granted a charter by the Regents of the University early in the year 1794, under the title "Trustees of Oxford Academy," and was one of the first four incorporated in the state, west of the Hudson. The first meeting of

for the erection of the third upon the site of the second academy, which was soon effected by those early settlers from the scant means at their disposal, with an energy and persistent devotion to the best interests of the new settlement, above all praise. This third building was moved in 1806, from its place on the common to the corner on the south side of Merchants at its intersection with Green street, opposite the present house, lot and premises of Ward Van Der Lyn. It continued in use here until the fall of 1831, when it was sold, with its site, to the Methodist Episcopal Church in Oxford and used by them as a place of worship until the erection of their present church near Fort Hill. It was in the third academy, under David Prentice as Principal, afterwards Professor of the Greek and Latin in Geneva (now Hobart) College, that among other names the roll bears those of Horatio Seymour, sometime Governor of the state, John W. Allen, who, in 1840, was Post-

master General under the first Harrison, Ward Hunt, who afterwards sat upon the bench of the Supreme Court of the nation, Joseph G. Masten, who was a Judge of the Superior Court of Buffalo, Charlemagne Tower, who died not long ago with a name familiar in the world of business and finance, Ferris Forman, who was afterwards graduated at West Point, and was in the war with Mexico, and reached honorable rank in the army, Henry W. Rogers, a leading lawyer and popular citizen of Buffalo, and prominent in political life, and Henry R. Mygatt, who, during nearly forty years of able and honorable practice of the law here, was the liberal citizen, the steadfast patron and friend of Oxford Academy, adding to her strength and usefulness by his willing service, wise counsel and constant benefactions. Of those who were with them at school, Hon. Frederick Juliard of Greene, Mr. Alanson Hull and Mrs. Elizabeth Newkirk of this town, are the only known survivors. The fourth school building had its site on the east side of Fort Hill, opposite the Baptist Church, and although a wooden structure, was far in advance of any before it in architecture and fitness for school purposes. It was surmounted with a dome to which a new bell was added, which has never since failed to summon successive generations of students to duty, and is still in use for that purpose. In this fourth building, too, a separate apartment for girls was first instituted under a preceptress, the gentler sex having until then been wholly under the training of the head master and his male assistants. This fourth building was dedicated January 2d, 1832, with ceremony worthy the event, including an address by Edward Andrews, a former principal of the school and afterward well known as an able and eloquent divine at Binghamton. The school now entered upon a career of great prosperity and wider usefulness, under the mastership of Merritt G. McKoon and his successor, John Abbott, covering a period of over twenty years. During no equal term of life has its patronage been so widespread. It reached quite beyond mere local limits and gathered students not only from other and distant sections of this state, but from those adjoining east, west and south, in some cases beyond even Mason and Dixon's line. In this ingathering each sex was well represented. The catalogue of 1840 has three hundred and ten names. Mr. Abbott, in his letter of January 12, 1852, in resigning his headship of the academy, recites that during his connection of fifteen years as tutor and principal of the school, 3,000 different students had shared in its privileges. He closed his letter with an earnest appeal to the Board for the erection of a more ample school building. During all of these years there were moving forward in succession, to "the world's broad field of battle," the men and women of the future, some to engage in the learned professions, others as educators in the schools, some to yet untried battlefields in defence of the Republic, a few to proclaim the Gospel message upon remote continents and isles of the sea, a goodly number to throng well and worthily all the highways and by-ways of business, social and domestic life. Many gained prominence in the learned professions, not a few distinction in places of public trust in the state and nation, many others in the manifold pursuits of the world's business and enterprises won merited success and usefulness. Time and space forbid any detail of these, much more of the large array of those who, in less conspicuous but not less useful places, have fulfilled the high mission of true and worthy manhood and womanhood. The fifth and last school building erected by the Trustees of Oxford Academy, stood near the east bank of the Chenango and upon the site of the new structure of the Union Free School, District of Oxford. This

fifth building was completed early in 1854, by its contractor, Thomas J. Wood, and both without and within far exceeded all that preceded it in all its appointments. Its dedication August 1st and 2d thereafter, at the "Academy Jubilee," so-called, brought together an assemblage, the equal of which had seldom been gathered on any like occasion in the state. The record of that event is in print in a book which cannot fail to be read as an important part of local history, while the years shall gather and pass. Of those who spoke and wrote on that occasion, Rev. Daniel Washburn, who gave the dedicatory ode, Miss Lucy A. Balcom, who contributed the song of welcome, and William H. Hyde, who spoke the Historical Reminiscences, alone remain. Hon. Ward Hunt, orator of the day, Rev. Dr. Edward Andrews, Judge Charles Mason, Hon. John Tracy, Hon. Daniel S. Dickinson, the gifted advocate, Edward Tompkins, Esq., and others, whose apt responses at the banquet were a delight to all who heard them, are with the great majority beyond. And with them are Hon. Horatio Seymour, Hon. John W. Allen, Hon. S. S. Randall, Abel R. Corbin, Esq., and others whose letters telling their regretful absence, with kindly words of cordiality and good will, brought joy to all who listened. The fourth academy, which had stood on the east side of Fort Hill, was moved during the summer of 1854, and placed near the river and the new school building, and used as a boarding house for teachers and students. Here Merritt G. McKoon died November 28, 1854. He had returned after ten years of educational work elsewhere, to take again the headship of the school which he had done much to equip and organize, for further usefulness and success, with high hope for the future. It was as if the husbandman had been suddenly stricken down after the sowing, and while awaiting with fond expectation the waving of the yellow harvest. His funeral was most fittingly ordered at the Academy where his life work was closed. Of those who followed Mr. McKoon as head-masters of the school, the longest term of service, extending beyond ten years, was that of David G. Barber, who, with John W. Thorp, M. D., his faithful associate for some time as tutor, are still here. It was during the early part of this period, that more than sixty, who had been or were then students of Oxford Academy, went forward to the defence of the Republic against armed rebellion. Some of these closed their school books and came not back again. Edward S. Bragg, a student of 1844, who was breveted a General for meritorious service and afterwards made Minister for the United States to Mexico, was the earliest in the list, and is now a resident of Wisconsin. A beautiful Memorial Tablet, the result of the thoughtful and generous action of the Alumni Association, tells of their grateful appreciation of the patriotic sacrifices and services of these student soldiers. The Centennial of Oxford Academy again brought together, on the 28th and 29th of June, 1894, from far and near, her sons and daughters in a glad reunion, in which nothing was wanting to worthily commemorate her birth in a forest and her long and useful career of a century. It was an event of so recent date that it is needless to go into detail of it here, and the more so, since what was said and done is already faithfully recorded in print in a book which will have added interest and value with the passing years onward into the distant future. The Centennial was the crowning event in the history of the Academy, and of the town as well. Taking chartered life together, they have advanced in harmony and grown up in mutual dependence through a century of blending hopes and interests. The present generation are not liable to hold at too high a value that ancestral wisdom and steadfast devotion to the true welfare



of themselves and those to follow them, in which Oxford Academy had birth. Principals: Uri Tracy, 1793-4; Elisha Mosley, 1795; John Kinney, 1807; Rev. Wm. Hyde, 1808; David Prentice, 1821; Wm. D. Beattie, 1825; Rev. Edward Andrews, 1826; Wm. D. Beattie, 1828; Merritt G. McKoon, 1832; John Abbott, 1843; Myron M. Goodenough, 1852; Charles E. Vanderburgh, 1852; Abel Wood, 1853; William Wight, 1854; Merritt G. McKoon, 1854, until his death; Frederick Humphrey, 1854; J. C. VanBenschoten, 1856; H. Barnes, jr., 1858;



LEROY COVILLE. SYLVANUS MOORE.

David G. Barber, 1859-70; Henry E. Storrs, 1870; Herbert J. Cook, 1870; Rev. Charles Woodward, 1872; Charles W. Brown, 1872; Warren C. Hubbard, 1872-73; Rev. Frank B. Lewis, 1873; James A. Brown, 1879; Frank D. Budlong, 1883; Frederick L. Gamage, 1885; Herbert P. Gallinger, 1893; Wm. C. Joslin, 1895.

The Firm of Coville & Moore, jewelers, was organized April 19, 1869, succeeding H. H. Cady in Exchange Block, Lafayette Square, where the same business has been conducted for about sixty or seventy years. The stock comprises everything in the line of jewelry, silver plated ware, watches, clocks, notions, etc., and all kinds of repairing. The members of the firm have been in Oxford for several years and it is the oldest firm wherein there has been no change in any respect in this village. Mr. LeRoy Coville was born in the town of McDonough, July 7, 1830. He was employed on a farm at an early age, continuing in that occupation, between which and going to school he divided his time, until the age of 23 years, when he started in with H. N. Walter, at Norwich to learn the jewelry trade, remaining with him about four years and becoming proficient in all branches of the business. Going to the town of Morris, Otsego County, he assumed charge of the jewelry business for Charles Brown. In 1858, he started in business in De Ruyter, succeeding a jeweler by the name of Weeks, and in the fall of 1859, came to Oxford and entered into co-partnership with H. H. Cady, under the firm name of Coville & Cady, which continued until 1867, when the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Cady continuing at the old place, and Mr. Coville conducting another store until the present co-partnership was formed. Mr. Coville, who is a Republican, has served as town and village assessor and village trustee, and is a

member of the M. E. Church; also of the Oxford Lodge and the Chapter F. & A. M., in which he has occupied many official posts. He was married to Louisa Hall, of McDonough Dec. 24, 1851. Mr. Sylvanus Moore was born in McDonough, Chenango County, July 24, 1841. He was brought up on a farm, spending as much time as could be spared from the farm duties in getting the rudiments of an education in the district school. Mr. Moore attended the Oxford Academy during the years of 1860-61 and 62, and for the four succeeding years he taught school and worked on the farm alternately. In March 1867, he came to Oxford and entered into clerkship for Wm. Balcolm, and remained with him until the present co-partnership of which he is a part, was formed. On May 28, 1873, he married Angie Webb, of Smithville, Chenango County. He is an active Republican, devoting much of his time in zealous work for his party, and serving on the board of inspectors almost continuously for about 20 years. He was appointed justice of the peace in Oct., 1889, to fill a vacancy and the following spring was elected; afterwards twice re-elected and now serving the second full term. He is an active member of the M. E. Church, in which he has been steward and trustee for many years.

Alfred Ricard Burke, one of the viewers for the Oxford Souvenir, was born in South New Berlin, June 27, 1875. He received his early education at South Oxford. He moved to Oxford in 1885, where he entered the Oxford Academy. After graduating, in 1893, from that institution, he entered Hamilton. Here he spent two years in preparation for his life work. It was here that he learned the photograph business. In 1895 he started in business in Middleburgh, where he remained one year. This start in Middleburgh was, in reality, to gain more knowledge of the business, for during the time he was studying to perfect himself he was twice in Albany and once in New York, for short periods, for that purpose. In 1896 he moved his gallery to Oxford, where he is now permanently located. The success he has had in Oxford will speak for his skill. In connection with his photographic work he is one of the firm of Stafford & Burke, job printers. Mr. Burke is an excellent artist and deserves the patronage he is getting.



GEORGE L. STAFFORD. A. R. BURKE.  
Viewer for the Souvenir.



**The Oxford Co-operative Savings and Loan Association** is an important local enterprise just organized, having for its object the accumulation of savings, to encourage industry and frugality and to provide an easy way by which the person with moderate means may be enabled to secure for himself and family a home. This association is a savings bank for receiving and investing savings in large or small sums by which the deposit of a single dollar will earn the same rate of interest as the millions of the capitalist. Its management is vested in a board of fifteen directors elected by the shareholders, including a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The last two are the only officers receiving compensation, so it will be seen the expenses are reduced to the minimum. All officers having charge of the funds of the association are under heavy bonds. A person desiring to become a member subscribes for a specified number of shares at the par value of \$100 per share, taking either series A, payable at the rate of one dollar a month or series B, payable in monthly installments of fifty cents, the first of which is estimated to mature in six years and the other in ten years. Each payment is made on the last business day of each month, and at the regular meeting of the board of directors held on the first Wednesday of the following month, these accumulations are loaned on bonds secured by first mortgage on approved real estate, or upon the shares held by the borrower, who must in all cases be a member of the association. This method is an advantage to the borrower that cannot be obtained elsewhere, since he not only shares in the profits accruing from the loans he may negotiate for his own use as well as those negotiated for others, but he is permitted to pay both the principal and the interest monthly. Dividends are declared semi-annually and credited to the shareholders. Every member is a proprietor in part, the investor and borrower being equal partners, and is in a position to know from day to day the character of the business transacted and to have an eye on what course his investments take. He may not necessarily be a borrower and should he desire to withdraw at any time he may do so. These associations are springing up in every small town and are successful. While men of large means are not excluded, it is the individual with a small income who is especially benefited. The Oxford association was incorporated July 23, 1897, under the laws of the State of New York and is under the direct supervision of the N. Y. State Banking Department, but the active business has just begun, the books of the company being opened to the public Nov. 1. Already about 200 shares have been pledged, a guarantee that the association will start with unusually large business. This is an enterprise which will appeal to local pride as well as to the spirit of financial gain, and for that reason will receive hearty support and become very popular. The board of directors are: A. D. Wands, president; F. H. Burchard, vice-president; W. A. Bentley, secretary; A. C. Lewis, treasurer; H. C. Stratton, attorney; George P. Mead, C. R. Miner, Dr. R. E. Miller, J. J. Lillis, E. M. Rider, Wellington Alexander, D. D. Corbin, W. H. Dunn, B. E. Holcomb and George B. Fletcher.

**Columbian Literary Circle.**—In the fall of 1891, the subject of a literary circle for intellectual advancement, was discussed by a number of ladies, but before any definite plans had been formulated, for obvious reasons it was thought best to postpone the forming of this society until another year. So in October of 1892, an organization of

eighteen members was formed, Mrs. A. D. Harrington being the first president, under the club name of the Columbian Literary Circle, to meet weekly on Monday evenings, with the immediate object of preparing for a better knowledge of the Columbian Exposition (America's Quarter Centennial), and American History. America's Relation to Foreign Powers, Stead's *Story of the Nations*, each week a selected article on some general topic of interest, with evenings with various authors, gave both instruction and pleasure during the evenings of 1892 and 1893. In May the society adjourned for the summer, hoping some of the members would be able to enjoy the Exposition at Chicago, the better for the winter's work. However, only one of our members visited the White City, and on her return told us, "You have missed the greatest event of your lives," which truth we were ready to acknowledge; and as she so readily recognized the Majestic earlier in the season, when on a trip to the metropolis, we knew the information she gained in the society must have been invaluable to her on her western trip. In October of 1893 the society, objecting to any second terms, elected Mrs. Simpson, President, finished "America and Foreign Powers," also read "Tenting on the Plains," by Mrs. Custer, "Under Summer Skies," by Clinton Scollard, Julia Dorris' "Bermuda," and continued our evenings with authors. In October of 1894, the Columbian Society resumed regular meetings with Mrs. J. W. Thorp as President, and every Monday evening during the winter saw the club in session. Brander Mathews' "Vignettes of Manhattan," Dr. Berry's "Zig-zag Letters Across the Sea," Field's "Gibraltar," Mrs. Peary's "Arctic Journal," and Ninde's "We Two Alone in Europe," with the various selected articles, brought information, knowledge and amusement to the members. In October of 1895 the C. L. C. again convened, keeping up the number of members and with Mrs. T. W. Robinson as chief magistrate. Readings were resumed on the same lines of previous winters' work, viz: one book of solid information, one of lighter literature and an article of current topics. "Our Western Archipelago," by Fields, in connection with a humorous work entitled "The Last American Maureens Fairing," and "Princess Alene," by Richard Harding Davis, followed by Julian Ralph's "Dixie or Down South," with Octave Thanet's "Knitters in the Sun," completed this winter's course of reading. In October of 1896 the Columbian again awoke from its long summer siesta, and with Mrs. H. A. Curtiss for presiding officer, resumed the weekly gathering of the clan. Interest remaining unchilled, the club gladly resumed "Dixie," with "Chapters from a Life," by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, "Shakespeare's Tales," by Charles and Mary Lamb, Boyesen's "Social and Literary Silhouettes of American Society," and "Alone in China," by Ralph, with "A Mother in Israel" and "The Truth-tellers," by John Strange Winters, brought the club up to the date of adjournment, May 24, 1897. This completes a brief epitome of the work during the past five years. Not always thinking alike, still with no serious disagreement, we have endeavored to have in essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity. As time is limited, not only by years but by various occupations, the members must be content, like the bees, to gather a little honey here and there from different flowers. The Columbian entertained the two other societies, viz.: Joseph Jefferson and Round Robin, by giving them a reception at Mrs. A. D. Harrington's on May 24, 1897. The present officers: President, Mrs. H. C. Curtiss; Vice President, Mrs. J. W. Thorp; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. F. D. Deidrick.



A. D. HARRINGTON.

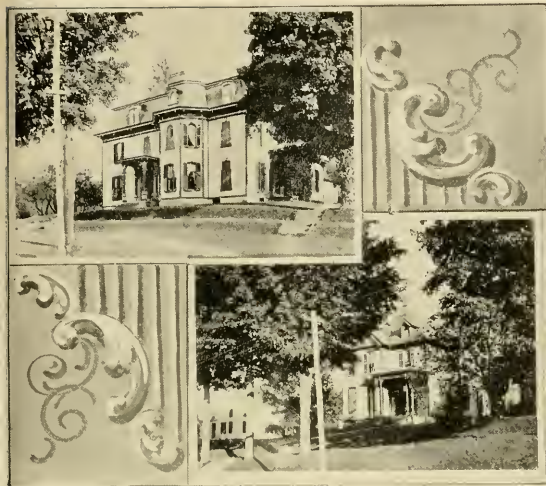
A. D. Harrington is one of the largest dairy farmers in Chenango county and is the proprietor of Lyon Brook Dairy for the retail of bottled milk at 1554 Broadway, Brooklyn. The bottling is done at Haynes station, a few miles north of Oxford, by J. W. Harrington, his son, where a number of men are employed for that purpose. The Harrington farm, illustrated here, is one of the best producing and best ordered farms in this great dairy section. The land is fertile and largely a plateau, somewhat rolling from the highway to the east, where it takes in a low range of hills, and on the west embracing a part of the rich river bottoms. There are 170 acres, well watered with an abundant supply from ever-flowing springs, carried by pipes into all of the buildings, which are large and of modern architecture, constructed by Mr. Harrington in 1875 (the barn in 1880) the year after he purchased the farm and settled down to reside upon it. The residence, a large three-story frame structure with mansard roof, stands upon the crest of terraced lawns, midst spreading, maples on the east side of Green street, within the southern limits of the corporation. The rooms are large and nicely furnished. The view from the porch takes in a large portion of the village to the north-west, and the winding, shrubbery-skirted Chenango river, cutting through the meadows in the foreground and sweeping through a beautiful valley to the south-west. The first large residence north is that of Mr. J. W. Harrington. Opposite is the home of the farmer employed on the place. On the west side of the road stands the barn, a structure which one of the best known Binghamton architects pronounced as nearly a model for completeness, capacity and convenience as could be desired. Mr. Harrington's own ideas are

largely embodied in the construction of this building, and right here is a favorable opportunity to give it a brief description. It comprises four floors, 64x64 ground plan, and is 48 feet from the ground to the eaves on the lower side. Standing as the building does on sloping ground, the basement is open on three sides and the entrance to the main floor, on the fourth, is practically level with the street. The walls of the basement, ten feet high, enclose box stalls and fastenings for the dairy, each of the forty cows being supplied with spring water running to her place summer and winter. By means of ventilators, a circulation is obtained which keeps the atmosphere free of the vapors common to cow stables. The temperature is regulated so that comfort is secured in all kinds of weather. Underneath the cow stable is a cellar into which the manure is thrown to be left for drawing away at any time desired. Passageways leading from floor to floor are provided inside. The hay and grain are drawn up an easy incline to the fourth floor, where they are pitched into bays and lofts having the depth of 25 feet and the total capacity for 137 tons. Connected with the barn are a hundred-ton silo and a root cellar which will hold 1,200 bushels of mangels. Mr. Harrington is an enthusiast in agriculture and in breeding for the dairy, having given much time and close study to both, and is a member of the Ayrshire Breeders' Association and the New York State Agricultural Association. He regards agriculture as a science capable of development far beyond the mere routine of farm drudgery. After wide experience in mercantile life he settled down to the dairy as a matter of taste, starting the business of supplying Brooklyn families with butter, cheese, eggs and milk, and placing it under the immediate supervision of Mr. E. L. Haynes, a competent manager. Mr. Harrington was born on a farm in Chenango county, March 5, 1834, and was educated at the Oxford Academy, afterwards engaging in teaching and farming, alternately, until 1858, when he went into a general merchandise business in Pitcher, the firm being Taylor & Har-



Photos by Burke.

A. D. HARRINGTON'S FARM.



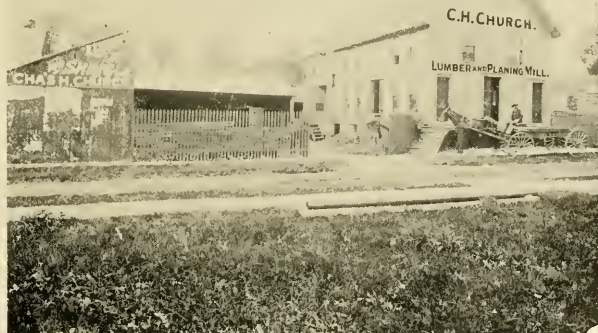
D. HARRINGTON'S RESIDENCE.  
Photos by Burke.

J. W. HARRINGTON'S RESIDENCE.

rington. This continued six years, when he returned to the farm. While in Pitcher he was active in politics, serving as postmaster of that place during Lincoln's first term; also a supervisor of the town, which position he has occupied in Oxford. A year after leaving Pitcher he engaged as a traveling salesman for McCarthy & Sedgwick, afterwards McCarthy & Sons, Syracuse, spending eight years on the road. Then he came to Oxford, as has been before stated. In 1875 he formed a copartnership with W. A. Carl in the grocery trade, occupying the store in the Harrington block, which business is now conducted by Carl & Cronk. In 1884 his son, J. W. Harrington, succeeded Mr. Carl and the firm became A. D. Harrington & Son, continuing thus for a few years, when the former retired leaving his son to conduct the business alone for several years—until, finally, the latter sold out to the present firm. Mr. Harrington was for many years a director in the Highland Solar Salt Company of Syracuse; also at one time in the First National Bank of Oxford. He married Emma E., the daughter of M. N. Waldron of Otselic, Sept. 30, 1862. Both are active supporters of the Congregational church of Oxford, Mr. Harrington being one of the two lay members of the board of trustees of the New York State Home Missionary Society, in which work he takes a great interest.

Charles H. Church is a builder who has constructed some very pretty residences in Oxford. He is one of the village

trustees and to him is due a share of the credit for the improvements voted by the village in the last two years and put into use this summer. We refer to the new graded school and the village water system. Any form of public enterprise may expect encouragement and assistance from him. Being a Democrat and somewhat active, in a strong Republican community he does not expect much political preferment, in fact, has little time for it, although he has served as collector of the village as well as trustee. Mr. Church, a carpenter and builder all his life, born in Oxford, Aug. 18, 1863, purchased a large plot of ground on Taylor street, and in 1891, clearing away a web of ramshackle buildings, constructed a substantial lumber office and planing mill with yards and sheds adjacent for the storage of lumber and shingles. The building, 24x60, is three-story and basement, and the yards are separated from the street by a good picket fence. There is an air of prosperity, neatness and taste about the premises that has been a great improvement to the street. The building is equipped with machinery for dressing lumber and the business as at present conducted consists of handling all sorts of lumber at retail and in contract building; also buying standing timber, to fill any order that may be received for lumber at home or at a distance. The storage capacity of the building and yards is as high as ten car loads. Much of the lumber is purchased in Chicago, Tonawanda, Buffalo and the South. To illustrate the growth of the business we cite the fact that in one month 220,000 shingles were sold. Building, like everything else appeals to modern notions and for that reason the younger class of men generally give the best satisfaction and by adopting modern ideas are able to outbid their slower and older fashioned competitors. Mr. Church began contract building in 1885 and has made a success. He was married to Fannie A. Briggs, of Deposit, Nov. 17, 1887. He is an active volunteer fireman, being the foreman of Niagara Hose Co.



C. H. CHURCH, LUMBER AND PLANING MILL.





ASA P. HYDE.

WILL M. HINMAN.

The Asa P. Hyde Machinery Agency is a large manufacturing and jobbing establishment, giving employment to from twenty to thirty hands, according to the condition of the times. It is located adjacent the D. L. & W. R. R. yards, to which it is connected with a branch track. The extent and variety of manufactured work and jobbing done here is surprising, the products being shipped all over the country. There is a machine shop, 25x60, from which there are turned out all kinds of patterns and castings and machine, engine and boiler work. Any article in metal, iron, brass, etc., may be produced here upon order. In fact, designs are furnished from which the articles are manufactured. If a stationary engine of any character is desired it can be made here. Then there is a planing mill, 20x50, joined with an el, 18x25, in which the lumber is dressed, also a novelty manufacturing department, 28x35. It is here that the visitor is impressed with the importance of the business, for the productions of this department are so varied and numerous that one is amazed at the inventive skill which they represent. And where do they all go? one asks. Well, a large commercial house chooses to offer gifts to its customers; a child's sled or top, a little girl's playhouse—tables, chairs, settees, stoves; or a wheelbarrow, desk, sewing table, umbrella stand, folding music rack, easel, cradle, step ladder, etc.; this firm will supply it by the thousand lots, more or less as may be desired. The Asa P. Hyde Machinery Agency makes a specialty of doing just this thing and perhaps you, dear reader, living across the continent, brought home to your child the other day some pretty little article that came from this shop. The A. & P. tea com-

pany are taking 600 chairs and as many tables weekly. Establishments manufacturing soaps are handling the productions of this factory and having them shipped directly to their trade to be given out. They may be found in a dozen or more states, some of them on the Pacific coast. A special sled is being made in very large quantities for George B. Borgfeldt & Co. One order for sleds, tables and chairs is being filled at the rate of 500 daily, and as fast as the facilities can be increased the order will be enlarged. But that is not all this Agency does. We enter an addition, 16x20, being built, in which we find the storeroom for manufactured articles, including those above enumerated and a great lot of castings, steamfittings and brass goods. We find that there are in stock tools of all kinds, all kinds of the several attachments for machinery, belting, shafting, pulleys and hangers, boilers and smokestacks, pipes and couplings. Passing into the yard we find a great supply of lumber to be worked up or to serve the outside demand. Entering the engine room we observe that the maze of machinery by which this work is done is driven by a 25-horse power engine. It is a remarkable enterprise, one without counterpart within many miles of Oxford. The proprietors are two practical machinists, who undoubtedly possess considerable genius, since they are constantly devising novelties and putting them on the market. Asa P. Hyde started the plant first in Pitcher, Chenango county, where he was born June 7, 1861. It was then, 1880, the Enterprise Company, a factory on rather a small scale. In 1884 it was moved to Oxford, Mr. Hyde associating with himself Messrs. Bundy and Perkins. In the fall of 1889 he retired from that business and started an agency for selling machinery and supplies and continued it until 1895, when Mr. Will M. Hinman, his present partner, stepped in and the two secured the old machine shop of D. Walker & Son which they have, of course, had to enlarge and outfit in order to get the necessary accommodations; put in new machinery, construct new buildings, etc. Mr. Hyde's practical knowledge of machinery has called him away from Oxford on different occasions to get new works in running order. He furnished several large outfits throughout the country from the Eagen Co., of Cincinnati. Now he can do just as well from his own establishment. He acted as foreman for one year, of the Sidney Novelty

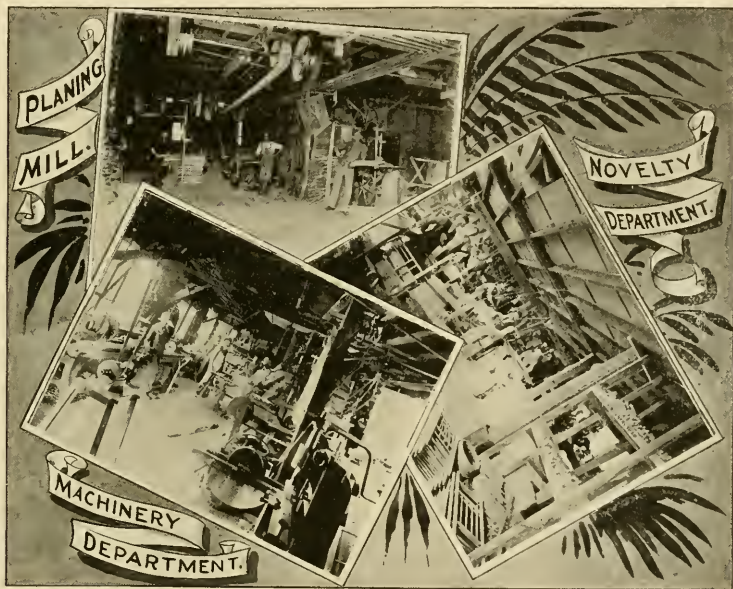


ASA P. HYDE MACHINERY AGENCY.



Works, which plant he helped put up, afterwards occupying the same position with the Norwich Cabinet Co's works, and later having charge of the machinery in the J. J. & F. P. Treanor mills at Oxford. He is interested in keeping the science of engineering at a high standard. Mr. Hinman was born in Afton, July 5, 1867, and is an expert mechanic. He came to Oxford in 1893 and worked at carpentry until he went into the Asa P. Hyde Machinery Agency. Mr. Hinman married Lillian L. Stoddard of Coventryville, Sept. 27, 1888. He is Sachem of the local tribe of Red Men, Secretary of the Steamer Company and member of the Y. M. C. A. Mr. Hyde married Mary O. Jacobs in 1886

speak of a high average of prosperity. Flagstone walks in every part of the village, excellent water, gas and electric lights in the streets, public buildings and dwellings, good stores and markets and adequate railroad facilities meet every reasonable demand for convenient and comfortable living. Book clubs, literary societies and an admirable public school minister to the intellectual wants of the community. A high-grade local paper tells us about our neighbors and—more delightful still—tells our neighbors about us. An aggressive and prosperous Y. M. C. A. is trying to do its part in meeting the physical, intellectual, social and religious needs of our young men, while as for churches we have them in sufficient variety to meet



Photos by Graeff

ASA P. HYDE MACHINERY AGENCY.

**Impressions of Oxford.**—It is said that the Moors of Spain used to think that the portals of Paradise were directly over Grenada, so that the soul of the faithful Moslem leaving the earth at that point ascended in a vertical line to the heavens, while from any other portion of the earth's surface the direction must have been more or less oblique in proportion to the distance of the place from the Moorish capital. It is perhaps inevitable that one should look upon his home-town with some such prejudiced favor as that of the Moorish dwellers in Grenada for their beautiful city; yet it cannot be mere local partiality that leads us to see that Oxford has distinct and important advantages as a place of residence. Nature has done much for us. Our beautiful river and valley surround us with scenes of quiet, restful loveliness, familiar yet changing from hour to hour with the varying lights and shadows and with the progress of the seasons. The streets of Oxford are wide and shaded with noble trees. The lawns are generally well kept and the comfortable-looking houses everywhere

every theological and ecclesiastical requirement. With all the advantages, however, to which Oxford can justly lay claim, there is one requisite of a well equipped town that we still lack. We have no public library. It is to be hoped that either by an independent organization or by an enlargement of the functions of the Academy library, this want may soon be met. Also it would seem as if there was opportunity here for the formation of a Choral Union that would afford practice and training in vocal music to its members and make it possible for us to have, once a year at least, such a musical treat as the Oxford Chorus provided for us in their delightful concert recently given.—WARD T. SUTHERLAND.

The Oxford Gas Company, organized August 9, 1897, has just got its plant on South Canal street in operation. It is a Springfield gas machine with the capacity of producing 1,000 lights, and is run by water taken from the village supply. The association is capitalized at \$2,000, the incorporators being F. T. Corbin, A. D. Wands, Edgar Pearsall and Frederick and Albert Burchard.

**Valley View Farm**, owned and occupied by A. & E. P. Morse, was purchased of Benjamin Hovey, the original owner and settler of that territory, in part now occupied by the village of Oxford, by Solomon Dodge, in 1792, and originally comprised 160 acres. It is situated in the northern outskirts of the village on the main road leading to Norwich, which in the village is known as Washington ave. At present it comprises ninety acres, one-third of which is fertile river bottoms, through which the Chenango pursues a tortuous course, and the rest gradually rolling west to higher elevations. Of late years the Morse brothers found that visitors from the city were so delighted with the location and the con-

the best creamery productions. Mr. Alpha Morse is a practical instructor in the dairy, he having exhibited his cattle at the World's Fair, where he was employed from May 1 to Oct. 1, 1893, in the dairy exhibit department. His brother, Edward P., takes personal charge of the farm and dairy, while Alpha is at times called upon to act as instructor at various state experimental stations. While this is being written, he is en route to Raleigh, S. C., taking hither cattle from his dairy, where he is to act as instructor during the ensuing winter (1897-98). The Morse brothers have been large exhibitors at the State fair and at the experimental stations, having sold their cattle to the Geneva, N. Y., and seven different state stations.



Photos by Burke.

VALLEY VIEW FARM—A. & E. P. MORSE.

VIEW FROM THE PIAZZA.

veniences that none but a "village farm" might offer, such as proximity to the postoffice and stores, within ten minutes over good walks, well lighted by arc burners all the way, high elevation, with the beautiful valley and village spread out to view from the piazzas and windows, pure, spring water through the house and good boating within a stone-throw, that they decided to take summer boarders and provided ample accommodations for a dozen; fitting up the interior in modern style and tasty furnishings. The Morses are practical dairymen and for years have been engaged in raising thoroughbred short horn cattle, since 1883 purely for dairy qualities, from which they provide their guests abundantly with

There are also descendants of their stock at the Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire stations. Hezekiah Morse, their grandfather, purchased the farm in 1818. He was a native of Sherburne, Mass., and moved to Eaton, Mass., in 1804, having seven children when he came to Oxford. He died on the farm in 1827, and his second wife, who was Sally Stone, died in 1872, at the age of ninety-three years. Hezekiah B. Morse, their father, was born in Eaton, Mass., in 1812, and died in 1877. Alpha Morse was born on the farm fifty years ago. He married Maribah Durfee in 1866. He is a member of Canastawacta Lodge, I. O. O. F., and the Chenango Encampment. Edward P. was born thirty-eight years ago.



MRS. SARAH C. MINK. Promoter W. R. C. HOME.

The Women's Relief Corps Home was established through the efforts of the Woman's Relief Corps, auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, to care for the aged, dependent veteran and his wife, veterans' mothers, widows and army nurses, residents of New York. In her annual address to the Convention in 1888, Mrs. Sarah C. Mink, Department President of the W. R. C., officially introduced the subject and hoped in the near future the great Empire State would have a home where those who helped save the nation might be cared for, together with their wives. In

1890, Mrs. Sarah C. Nichols, Dept. Pres., recommended that two hundred dollars (\$200) be set aside from the general fund as a nucleus for a fund to be known as the Home fund. A circular was also issued that year and all members urged to unite in advancing this plan. Up to this time it was thought to establish and support this Home solely from Relief Corps sources. The subject was again taken up in 1891, when Ellen M. Putnam was Department President. In that year she issued a circular to the corps of the Department asking such corps to contribute a sum equal to one dollar for each member, and the corps responded liberally. At this time it was decided to secure legislation, if possible, and establish an institution supported by the State. In 1892, by recommendation, a committee was appointed from the Woman's Relief Corps consisting of Ellen M. Putnam, Buffalo, Kate E. Jones, Ilion, Sarah C. Nichols, Auburn, Sarah C. Mink, Syracuse, and Annie P. Cleary, Rochester, to act with the following committee appointed by the Grand Army of the Republic: Joseph P. Cleary, Richard Curran and J. Graham, Rochester, T. L.

Poole, Syracuse, and Nicholas W. Day, New York, to secure legislation for a state institution. A bill was introduced and passed for the establishment of this Home, known as Chapter 468 of the Laws of 1894, providing that the Governor appoint a commission of nine, six of whom should be members of the Woman's Relief Corps and three members of the Grand Army of the Republic, to locate a site and report to the Legislature of 1895. The following Board was appointed: Ellen M. Putnam, Buffalo, Sarah C. Mink, Watertown, Edward J. Mitchell, Yonkers, Annie P. Cleary, Rochester, Kate E. Jones, Ilion, Richard Curran, Rochester, Sarah C. Nichols, Auburn, Ada G. Mohr, Brooklyn, Geo. H. Treadwell, Albany. This Board met in Rochester May 17th, 1894, and organized. Ellen M. Putnam was elected President, Edward J. Mitchell, Secretary, and Richard Curran, Treasurer. It was then decided to issue a circular giving notification of this law, to be sent to every city, town and village in the State, asking if in their locality could be found a desirable site. August 7, 1894, the committee met in Syracuse and found the following offers were received, donating one hundred acres, from Medina, Batavia, Fair Haven, Oswego, Peru, Roxbury, Cold Spring, Cooperstown and Oxford. During the month of August these sites were visited by the commission and October 12 the commission met and decided on Oxford, Chenango county. The legislature of 1895 appropriated twenty-five thousand dollars and the legislature of 1896, fifty thousand dollars for building purposes. The location is a fine one, situated about a mile and a quarter from the village of Oxford on a bold eminence, which rises about one hundred feet above the Chenango river, hemmed in on all sides by gently rising and rather lofty



BOARD OF MANAGERS W. R. C. HOME.



and irregular hills, whose summits are crowned with forest growth, presenting a view of varied scenery, lovely beyond description. It is the intention, according to original plan, to have five buildings, and to that end a sufficiently large electric and steam heating plant exists to supply light and heat for the buildings. The four classes of persons for whom this Home has been built are, the aged, dependent veteran and his wife, veterans' mothers, veterans' widows, and army nurses, residents of New York. The requirements of admission to the Home are: First, in the case of wives and widows of veterans, that marriage must have been prior to 1880; second, for the veteran, a certificate of honorable discharge from the United States service; third, one year's residence in the state; fourth, good moral character; fifth, sound mind; sixth, the existence of no relative in the state legally liable for their support; seventh, the assignment of pension to the

Edward E. Breed Post, No. 196, G. A. R.—This Post was organized January 21, 1881, and named after Edward Elias Breed, who enlisted in 1862, in Co. A., 114th Regiment N. Y. Vols., and later became First Lieut. of Co. H. At the battle of Winchester, Va., he was in command of his company. After several Color Bearers had fallen and the flag was lying upon the ground near him, Lieut. Breed seized the colors and bore them forward until stopped by a bullet in his breast from which he fell mortally wounded and died soon after. The charter members of the Post were: Charles Hemenway, John H. Phelps, Henry O. Daniels, Thomas C. Pettis, Augustus H. Brill, Dwight M. Lee, Charles B. Walker, George A. Mallory, Solomon F. McFarland, Samuel S. Stafford, Bradford G. Greene, James T. Hill, Cornelius O. King, Charles E. Stratton, Isaac S. Evans, Wheaton Loomis, and James B. Brown.



THE WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS HOME.

Treasurer of the Home on entering. This is required solely for the purpose of judicious expenditure by the person to whom the pension belongs. The present building is a brick structure, 90x130 feet, and two stories in height, built and finished in a substantial manner and supplied with every convenience to make a really pleasant and delightful home. The Home is now full and contains fifty-two inmates, twenty men and their wives, seven widows and five veterans' mothers. Applications are on file for seventy-six veterans and their wives and many for widows and mothers. The Home is under the superintendency of Mrs. Ellen M. Putnam, who is managing all its multifarious and intricate departments in a very successful manner. At the death of Sarah C. Mink, Gov. Morton appointed Mrs. Margaret A. Hibbard to the vacancy. Mrs. Laura Clarke of Oxford was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Ellen M. Putnam who was chosen by the Board to the position of Superintendent.

The first officers of the Post were: Dwight M. Lee, commander; Samuel S. Stafford, sen. vice com.; Charles Hemenway, jun. vice com.; Augustus H. Brill, adjutant; James B. Brown, quartermaster; Solomon F. McFarland, surgeon; Henry O. Daniels, officer of the day; Cornelius O. King, officer of the guard; George A. Mallory, inside sentinel; Thomas C. Pettis, quartermaster sergeant. Since then the commanders of the Post have been: Oscar H. Curtis, Solomon F. McFarland, LaFayette Moore, Samuel S. Stafford, John H. Phelps, Charles M. Dodge and James D. Smith. The present officers of the Post are: Charles M. Dodge, commander; George Lamb, sen. vice com.; Willis A. Carl, jun. vice com.; John R. Norris, adjutant; Samuel S. Stafford, quartermaster; George W. Lewis, surgeon; Uri VanTassel, officer of the day; Thomas Torrey, officer of the guard; and Charles Hemenway, Edgar Waters and Leonard G. Lindsey, relief committee. For nearly twelve years after the or-



ganization of the Post, no member was lost by death; during the last four years and nine months eight members have thus been mustered out. An elegant blank volume for a record of Personal War Sketches has lately been presented by Mr. Francis G. Clarke. The present membership of the Post is forty-three. Regular meetings are held every second and fourth Friday evening of each month, at the A. O. U. W. rooms on Navy Island.

**Edward E. Breed Women's Relief Corps, No. 217,** was organized December 7, 1894, by Mrs. Kate E. Jones, Past Department President, of Ilion, N. Y., with thirty charter members: Mary A. Stafford, Emma A. Harrington, Harriet L. Gleason, Jane

Eccleston, Guard; Caroline R. Hemenway, Assistant Guard; Charlotte N. Thorp, Delegate; Sarah D. Lewis, Alternate. The Corps has lost one member by death, and the present membership is thirty-five. It is a strong organization and has already contributed nearly five hundred and fifty dollars in charitable work. Regular meetings of the Corps are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, at Red Men's hall, Navy Island. The present officers are: Mary A. Stafford, President; Charlotte N. Thorp, Senior Vice-President; Ellen M. Burchard, Junior Vice-President; Jane M. Parsons, Chaplain; Marania Greene, Treasurer; Tillie J. Bissikummer, Secretary; Minnie C. Eccleston, Conductor; Martha J. Robinson, Assistant Conductor; Caroline R. Hem-



Photos by Burke.

#### THE WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS HOME—INTERIOR VIEWS.

M. Parsons, Marania Greene, Margaret S. Clarke, Ada R. Newkirk, Roxie M. Miller, Minnie C. Eccleston, Caroline R. Hemenway, Alcinda Ensign, Laura B. Clarke, Susan E. Curtis, Mary A. B. Brown, Martha J. Robinson, Jennette M. Cooke, Charlotte N. Thorp, Amanda N. Eccleston, Ellen M. Burchard Sarah B. Corbin, Sarah D. Lewis, Sarah Bills, Polly A. Mead, Idella M. Perkins, Martha J. Carl, Charlotte L. Comstock, Harriet L. Wilcox, Gertrude Harrington, Tillie J. Bissikummer Elizabeth E. Lee. The first officers elected on the institution of the corps were: Mary A. Stafford, President; Emma A. Harrington, Senior Vice-President; Harriet L. Gleason, Junior Vice-President Jane M. Parsons, Chaplain; Marania Greene, Treasurer; Margaret S. Clarke, Secretary; Ada R. Newkirk, Conductor; Roxie M. Miller, Assistant Conductor; Minnie C.

enway, Guard; Martha J. Carl, Assistant Guard, Harriet L. Gleason, Delegate; Jane M. Parsons, Alternate; Harriet L. Gleason, Press Correspondent.

**Forest Hill Farm.**—This is one of the best situated, best ordered and most easily cultivated among the many first-class farms for which Chenango county is noted. It came into the possession of Mr. John E. Miller about a year and a half ago, and during that time he has replaced the old buildings largely with structures that are neat and comfortable and give the place a very tidy and thrifty appearance. There are 210 acres of gently rolling land, with no side-hills that are more difficult to work than the average undulating surface. The farm is well watered, having five springs and as many wells; has plenty of timber, including

one 25-acre piece of maple, beech, birch, ash and cherry, a sugar bush of 500 trees, an apple orchard of grafted fruit which has yielded in one season as many as 300 bushels; pasture and cultivated acreage for the support of a dairy of thirty cows and from fifty to one hundred sheep, and very nice and fertile meadows embracing one piece of forty acres. This farm has produced as high as seventy-five tons of hay. At one time it sold for \$5,700, and since then a great deal of money has been put into it. The location is on a high plateau overlooking the village of East McDonough (a mile distant), in the town of McDonough.

stantial milk house in the door-yard contains the vat for cooling the milk. The horse stables and carriage house, the oldest buildings on the place, are commodious and convenient, fitted with grain lockers, and open and box stalls, and are in good condition, affording Mr. Miller excellent barn room for some of his best horses, should he desire to avail himself of it. Stately trees and an abundance of shrubbery surround the place, making it attractive and affording ample shelter from the winds and the burning rays of a hot mid-summer sun. There is not an acre of land which is not tillable or does not afford excellent grazing for



DAIRY AND CROP BARN.  
THE FARM RESIDENCE.

JOHN E. MILLER'S FARM, McDONOUGH.

THE FORTY-ACRE MEADOW.  
THE TENANT'S COTTAGE.

There are two distinct groups of farm buildings, both occupied by men employed about the place and their families. The upper set of buildings include a two-story residence, with horse stables and poultry houses in the rear, and across the road the cow barn, 60x24, with bays and a loft for hay and grain overhead, and cattle stalls and tool and implement storage in the basement; also a spacious, well-constructed grainery adjacent. The poultry-house, 30x16, properly divided by the use of wire netting, is well lighted and clean. The annual production of poultry is to be made no small item in the assets of the place. A sub-

cattle, not to mention including sheep, except that which is timbered. Near the lower end of the farm is a comfortable cottage, recently repaired inside and out, with sheds, well and cellar and all outlying conveniences. So it will be seen the farm accommodates two families as entirely apart as though living on separate places. Each has first-rate gardens, and the production of berries is greater than two families usually need. Mr. Miller believes that the time is coming when the raising of sheep and poultry will be more profitable than any branch of agriculture. He has made better provisions for that purpose than are usually

considered. The care of sheep is particularly provided for with sheds and a sheep barn 72x54. The residences and outbuildings, including the dairy and crop barn, are neatly painted. In fact all buildings are in thorough order, a statement which will not surprise those who are acquainted with Mr. Miller. The farm, as every one also well knows, is not "a necessity in his business;" and while it is an object of considerable expense and more or less personal solicitude, it is managed with the same business-like method as would be expected of a man with his precise and methodical habits, whose whole aim and ambition might be restricted to agriculture—as it is not.

for Seeley & Pierce, at Waverly, coming from there here and going into business with Mr. Harrington. He is a strong Republican, and a veteran of the war of 1861-5, having enlisted at Candor, Tioga county, in Aug., 1862, and served to the close of the war in the 109th N. Y. Volunteers, being wounded in the fight of the Wilderness. He is married to Martha J. Harrington, of Binghamton. He is a member of the Red Men.

W. E. Cronk was born in the town of Western, Oneida county, Oct. 15, 1863. He attended school at Booneville, and in 1889 came to Oxford, going into the business of which he is now part owner, as a clerk for J. W. Harrington. He is a member of



Photos by Burke. W. E. CRONK.

CARL &amp; CRONK.

W. A. CARL.

The Firm of Carl & Cronk was organized in Oct., 1895, succeeding J. W. Harrington in a business which had been established many years, and which is today the leading exclusive grocery and crockery store in Oxford. The line of goods carried include the best that can be obtained and their customers comprise many of the leading families. W. A. Carl, the senior partner has made an enviable success of the grocery business in this village, since he started, in 1879. He was born in Caroline, Tompkins county, N. Y., March, 15, 1843. He first began grocery trade as clerk

the Masonic lodge and Independent Order of Red Men and the Niagara Hose company.

Oxford Lodge, No. 151, A. O. U. W., was constituted April 23, 1878, with seventeen charter members. The first officers of the Lodge were as follows: O. H. Curtis, past master workman; L. A. Knott, M. W.; William Cook, foreman; Dr. D. A. Gleason, overseer; E. C. Delavan, recorder; Dr. D. M. Lee, financier; A. S. Lewis, receiver. There have been five deaths since the institution of the order, the first occurring March 22, 1880, and the last October 5, 1895.



**The Methodist Episcopal Church** was incorporated Oct. 29, 1831. The first trustees were Bliss Willoughby, Nathaniel Wilcox, Caleb Seabury, Everitt Judson, Gardner B. Lewis, Elias Widger, Wm. E. Chapman, Geo. H. King and Daniel Dudley. The Rev. James Atwell was the pastor. There was no church edifice at that time, divine worship being held in the Academy building. In 1841, during the pastorate of the Rev. Wm. Pearne, the first church building was erected, which, with some repairing and improvements, was used until, during the pastorate of Rev. A. W. Cooper, the building was virtually made new by the expenditure of about \$4,500. The reopening and dedication took place in the month of July, 1887. This gives the society a very pleasant and comfortable place in which to worship. Besides the main auditorium, which has a seating capacity of 300, there are, in the basement, a Sunday school room, class rooms and kitchen. The officers at the present is composed of Rev. H. C. McDermott, Presiding Elder; Rev. J. H. Little, pastor; board of trustees: Geo. B. Fletcher, W. J. Mosier, James Burke, G. G. Gridley, W. A. Carl, S. Moore and W. D. Willoughby; stewards: W. D. Willoughby, S. Moore, James Burke, W. J. Mosier, G. B. Fletcher, M. D. Aldrich, Seth Bullock and G. G. Gridley; President of Epworth League, Endora Walling; local preacher, Fred R. Burke. The following auxiliary societies are connected with the church: The Epworth League, Woman's Foreign and Home Missionary Societies, Junior Epworth League and the Sunday School. The pastors who have served the church since its organization and in the order given are: James Atwell, Wm. Bowdish, Henry Halstead, Lyman Sperry, Geo. Harmon, J. C. Ransom, W. H. Pearne, Lyman Sperry, Wm. Bixby, L. L. Venox, Wm. Wyatt, B. Hawley, Z. Paddock, S. Stocking, A. S. Graves, J. T. Wright, H. Gee, S. H. Stanley, A. G. Matterson, W. R. Cobb, Dwight Williams, W. C. Bowen, W. G. Oneal, T. P. Halstead, S. F. Brown, F. L. Hiller, H. N. Talbot, J. K. Peck, S. C. Fulton, L. W. Peck, D. D., J. W. Mevis, A. W. Cooper, A. J. VanCleft, W. G. Simpson, Wm. Frisby, J. H. Littell.

**J. H. Littell**, pastor of the First M. E. church in Oxford, was born in Sanford, Broome county, N. Y., January 4, 1856. He was educated in the schools of the state and Wyoming seminary at Kingston, Pa., and joined Wyoming conference in April, 1885, being ordained deacon by Bishop Fowler in 1887, and elder by Bishop Foster in 1889. He served the following charges: Uniondale, Pa.; Lisle, N. Y.; Worcester, N. Y.; Otego, N. Y., and commencing the pastorate at Oxford, being appointed to that place April, 1897.

**The Epworth League**, M. E. Church, is older as an organization than the general Epworth League, the date of its organization being May, 1888. Rev. A. W. Cooper was then pastor of the church. The society as then formed was known as "The Young Christians' Oxford League." It adopted a constitution and was governed by a full set of by-laws. The first officers were: Counselor, Rev. A. W. Cooper; president, H. D. Gaige; first vice-president, Burt E. Budney; second vice-president, Orrie L. Burton; recording secretary, Sarah D. Stratton; corresponding secretary, Charles Blood; treasurer, Fanny Manning. The society never disbanded, but when the Epworth League was organized at Cleveland, Ohio, May 14, 1889, for the whole Methodist connection, "The Young Christians' Oxford League" adopted the general constitution, connected itself with the new society and was recognized as chapter No. 1731. From

that time until the present it has been faithfully at work for the cause of Christ and righteousness. The church has come to recognize it as a most helpful body, standing by all good efforts. It holds a prayer meeting regularly every Sunday evening, a business meeting once a month, besides the department meetings. There was reported at the last annual conference a membership of 35, besides the Junior League with 18 members. The officers for the present year are: President, Endora Walling; first vice-president, M. D. Aldrich; second vice-president, Cora Garrison; third vice-president, Alice Waters; fourth vice-president, Mary Burlison; secretary, Mrs. Seth Bullock; treasurer, Fred R. Burke.

**The Baptist Sunday School** was organized in 1834, and consisted of four classes under the care of Deacon Maine, Samuel Root, Mrs. Lory Perry and Maria Maine as teachers. The history of the school has been one of growth and prosperity; increasing blessings have been ours, and to-day, we have bright and attractive rooms, a library with new and interesting books and a school which comprises 4 officers, 18 teachers and an average attendance of 115. The Superintendents have been: Randall Maine, 1834-45; Samuel Root, 1845-63; D. G. Barber, 1863-70 and 1872-74; W. L. Beardsley, 1870-72; C. M. Gray, 1874-80 and 1881-87; Geo. S. Keyes, 1887-88; J. W. Cudworth, 1888-90; Geo. R. Bradley, 1890-94; James D. Smith, 1894-95; Geo. R. Bradley, 1895-.

**The Cyclists.**—This exhilarating sport is a favorite among the ladies of Delhi. Those who may be mentioned as excellent riders are: Mrs. J. H. Clarke, Mrs. J. C. Estelow, Mrs. Z. C. Brewster, Mrs. E. S. Brewster, Mrs. P. V. Newkirk, Miss May Corbin and Miss Edith Packard, the latter being one of the younger misses, of whom there are not a few. Some of the lady riders who have become proficient in the management of the wheel are Miss Anna Hopkins, Miss May Pearsall, Miss Anna Eccleston, Miss Anna Harrison, Miss May Harrison, Miss Cora Boname, Miss Florence Hamilton, Miss Emily Brown. Among the professional men of the village who ride gracefully and for practical purposes are the Rev. Mr. Colloque, rector of the Episcopal church, and the Rev. Mr. Sutherland, pastor of the Congregational society. Mr. Estelow, cashier of the bank, clears the maze of figures from his head by a spin on the wheel twice a day; Mr. McNeil, the grocer, occasionally turns a mile or two, and Dr. Green visits his patients on a wheel and charges nothing for the best of his antidotes, that smile and good cheer which come from wheeling.

**County Driving Distances.**—From Oxford to Afton, 15½ m; Bennettsville, 15 m; Bainbridge, 12 m; Burdick's settlement, 22½ m; Coventryville, 8¾ m; Coventry P. O., 9 m; Chenango Forks, 18¼ m; Columbus, 20½ m; East Greene, 6¾ m; East German, 9½ m; East McDonough, 5¾ m; East Pharsalia, 10 m; Earlville, 20¾ m; East Guilford, 12 m; Guilford, 6 m; Guilford Centre, 7½ m; German P. O., 13¾ m; Greene, 11½ m; Holmesville, 11½ m; Lincklaen, 21½ m; Mount Upton, 11½ m; McDonough, 9½ m; Norwich, 7½ m; North Norwich, 12¾ m; New Berlin, 18½ m; North Pitcher, 16½ m; North Pharsalia, 12½ m; Otselec, 20½ m; Plymouth, 12½ m; Preston P. O., 6½ m; Pitcher Spring, 15½ m; Pitcher, 16½ m; Pharsalia, 13½ m; Rockdale, 11 m; South New Berlin, 12½ m; South Plymouth, 9¾ m; Sherburne, 17 m; Smyrna, 17 m; South Otselec, 17 m; Smithville Flats, 11 m; Upperville, 18 m; Union Valley, 19½ m; Van Buren Corners, 6½ m; White's Store P. O., 10½ m; West Bainbridge, 9½ m.





JAMES W. GLOVER.

James W. Glover, one of the early residents of Oxford, was a lawyer of eminent ability, known throughout the state in connection with some important cases, and a citizen who displayed marked interest in matters conserving the weal of the community. A student of Henry R. Mygatt, whose office he entered for the study of law when eighteen years of age, he partook of that strong personality for which the former was noted, and which invariably impressed all who knew him. In the celebrated contest for the seat in the State Senate of 1874-75 between James G. Thompson of Norwich and William Youmans of Delhi, Mr. Glover was retained as attorney for the defence. The district comprised the counties of Chenango, Delaware and Schoharie. The face of the returns showed a majority of one for Mr. Thompson. Mr. Youmans contested the election, and the senate committee on privileges and elections, of which Dan Cole of Orleans was chairman, spent all or a part of the summer taking evidence through the district. Associated as counsel with Mr. Glover in behalf of Mr. Thompson was the late and distinguished Albany lawyer, Henry C. Smith, who, however, did very little in trying the case outside of Schoharie county, so that the burden of the respondent rested on Mr. Glover, and the result was the showing of a substantial majority for his client. He was also engaged in the defence of Judge Horace G. Prindle, who was brought to trial on impeachment proceedings before the State Senate in June, 1872, charged with malfeasance in office. Mr. H. R. Mygatt was also retained in this case. Mr. Glover was an uncompromising republican, who respected honest opposition in politics and had the most profound contempt for mugwampery. No vocabulary was too strong for his denunciations of party deserters. So bitter was he toward the New

York Times, to which he had for years been a subscriber, for its support of Cleveland in 1884 that he wrote a strong and sarcastic letter, a copy of which is now in possession of his son, ordering his paper stopped, in which appears the following: "When I renewed my subscription to the Times it was with the belief and supposition that the Times was and was to be a Republican paper. No Democratic paper or assistant Democratic paper in its new born zeal would have been taken by me. How beautiful its course and standing! The New York Times supporting Grover Cleveland on account of his purity of character! The New York Times supporting the copperhead Hendricks, who in the year 1876 it charged with being a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle, and a traitor to the country. What a spectacle! Mr. Glover was not a man who indulged in office-holding, but could be depended upon to assist others. He served as a supervisor one term and for eighteen years was the postmaster of Oxford, a position he cared more for because of the endorsement it gave him as a party warrior. He was born in Oxford, August 22, 1822, his father, James A. Glover, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere, being an early settler. He was educated at the Oxford academy, which institution he so zealously supported up to his death, serving as a trustee and president for several years. In 1840 he began the study of law with Henry R. Mygatt and in 1843 was admitted to the bar. Up to within seven years of his death, when a lingering and severe affliction compelled him to retire from active life, his was a busy career, ever faithful in his attachment to his native town and active in its welfare. During a few months in 1851 he was associated with George Rathbun, of Auburn, and though his prospects there were more promising, he could not content himself to a home elsewhere than Oxford, to which place he returned, living here until his death, which occurred Nov. 21, 1896. During the last five months he was confined to the house and for a long time he was bereft of speech. His death caused sorrow among numerous neighbors and friends. A prominent member of St. Paul's



Photo by Burke.

JOHN R. GLOVER'S RESIDENCE.

church, he was elected a vestryman in 1853 and re-elected in 1855 and each year thereafter until 1874, when he was chosen one of the wardens, being the senior warden at the time of his death. In the resolutions adopted by the officers of that church its highest obligations were acknowledged for the "faithful and zealous performance of every duty devolved upon him in his official relations to the parish," as well as for "the liberality he had shown in contributing time and means in the up-building of the church;" further: "The superior qualities exhibited by him in the church and in his profession made his influence felt in all his relations in life. He was a faithful and loyal friend. Wrong-doing, cant, hypocrisy, meanness and time-serving received his severest condemnation, but he was always a fearless champion of right and truth." The trustees of the Oxford academy resolved "That we have heard with much sadness of the death of James W. Glover, who for twenty-five years a member, and five years the president of this board, was a willing contributor to the support and maintenance of Oxford academy, zealous for her honor and prosperity and helpful

been recognized in many ways. He served as clerk of the Board of Supervisors in 1879, '81-'2, and in 1885-'89; also as justice of the peace, which position he now holds, for six years. He is a member of Niagara Hose Company in which he has been honored by election to all company offices and is Chief of the Fire Department, now serving his second term (1884 and 1897). On May 19, 1880, he married Miss Lillie Henstock of Montrose, Pa. He has been member of the Republican county committee several years, acting as its secretary and treasurer. He has served as Reading Clerk since 1894, and his proficiency in that capacity is recognized. They have two children, James W., and Anna H.

The Oxford Branch, No. 53, National Association of Stationary Engineers, is in a flourishing condition and gives promise of proving beneficial to the profession in this vicinity. That such an organization can be made as pronounced a success as this has shown itself to be, in a town of the size of Oxford, is evidence of having the right



THE OXFORD STATIONARY ENGINEERS' ROOMS.

in whatever concerned her well-being and usefulness." Mr. Glover married Sarah A., the daughter of Erastus Perkins, of Oxford. She died Nov. 14, 1892. They left one child, Mr. John R. Glover, who resides at the old home on Washington park in this village.

John R. Glover, the Reading Clerk of the New York State Assembly, has a pleasant home in Oxford, where he was born, July 28, 1856, and where he has always resided, except during the sessions of the legislature, when he makes his home in Albany, his family usually accompanying him. His father, James W. Glover, whose sketch appears elsewhere, was an eminent lawyer, and upon his death the son assumed the business and continued in the same office. The subject of this sketch was educated in the Oxford Academy, afterwards studying law with his father and in January, 1880, being admitted to the bar at Albany. He is an active and enthusiastic republican, believing thoroughly in party organization and standing firm and loyal by it. From a boy he has worked for the party and his services have

sort of membership and excellent management, as well as having been started in the proper way. It was organized as recently as May 15, 1897, and yet very nicely furnished and convenient quarters are maintained, provided with a library, engineering publications and periodicals, newspapers, catalogues, sample steam gauges and fittings, oil cups, models of engines and other appliances of the trade, which may afford the members instruction and study. The object of the Association is for "the better education of its members in the art and science of steam engineering, and to afford them legal protection when unjustly assailed by other organizations in their vocation." As an association, the members are prohibited from encouraging strikes or in any way interfering between employers and employes. Engineers of "one year's actual running experience," who can pass the examination, are eligible to membership. The Association is not to be used for political or religious purposes, but it may take any proper action to secure such legislation as shall best give security to life and property in the generation and transmission of steam as a motive power. The



T. W. ROBINSON'S RESIDENCE.

Photo by Burke.

Oxford branch was organized mainly through the efforts of Mr. Asa P. Hyde, a former member of No. 12 of Binghamton, with the following charter members: James L. Guile, William E. Dunn, R. B. Stratton, Seymour Fleming, John L. Brown, Arvine S. Lewis, Clark L. Webb, John F. Zieman, W. E. Skinner, A. E. Halbert, H. J. Eccleston, Jesse J. Brown, Asa P. Hyde. The rooms to which reference has been made are very attractive, as the accompanying illustration shows. They are in the Van Der Lyn block, and there the members have regular meetings on the first and third Saturdays of each month. The furnishings include every convenience for the study of the science to which the rooms are devoted, including blackboards, upon which explanations are more readily made by means of diagrams. The Association has certainly done well in providing such an abundance of equipments in so short a time. The officers are: President, Asa P. Hyde; vice-president, R. C. Stratton; recording and corresponding secretary, A. E. Halbert; financial secretary and treasurer, A. S. Lewis; conductor, Seymour Fleming; doorkeeper, W. E. Dunn; trustees, W. E. Skinner, C. L. Webb and John L. Brown.

Thomas W. Robinson has been engaged in the meat business since 1896, and he now has a market on Main street, fitted up with the conveniences and furnished in the style that does credit to its proprietor. The building, a three-story structure with a good cellar, was purchased of William Balcom by Mr. Robinson in May, 1894. A good deal of money was expended in tearing out the interior and refitting it. At that time Mr. Robinson was conducting a market in the old structure which stood on the site of the present bank building at the corner of Main and South Canal streets, where in the fall of 1879 he had bought an interest in the market with E. S. Tansey. In 1880 William Cook succeeded Mr. Tansey, and the following year sold out to Mr. Robinson, since which time he has conducted the business as sole proprietor, being assisted by his son Linn. The market is 75x25, finished in graining and furnished with marble slabs for the arrangement of meats.

The refrigerator has a capacity equal to that of many city markets, but the business done at this place is considerable and there is not more room than is absolutely required. Mr. Robinson was born in Amptill, Beds., England, March 21, 1845. Coming to this country in April, 1871, he at once located in Oxford, where the first year he was employed by L. A. Knott; subsequently and until he went into the meat business, following the trade of a carriage trimmer. On August 28, 1872, he married Martha E., the daughter of Eli Bartoo of Brisbin. He is a member of the Masonic lodge.

Willoughby & Fletcher, millers, succeeded to one of the oldest milling plants in the county. The dam was built about the year 1792, and the mill about the same time. The mill on South Canal Street recently vacated and now converted into

stores, in years past was used for grist, saw, plaster and woolen mills, passing from one owner to another until finally it became the property of E. M. Tower, and on April 12, 1886, passed into the hands of George S. Keyes. Upon the death of the latter, between two and three years later, William D. Willoughby and David G. Barber, as executors, took charge of the business and carried it on until it was disposed of at executor's sale to Mr. Willoughby, who later admitted George B. Fletcher as an equal partner. It was on March 17, 1894, that the firm was organized. The mill was then closed up and used for storage purposes until 1896, when it was reopened, Willoughby & Fletcher in the meantime having equipped the stone mill they now occupy on the east side of the river. During the fall and winter of 1896-97 they ran both mills, and in the spring of 1897 the old one was stripped of the machinery and sold out. The new mill comprises three floors and has three run of stone for feed, and a set of rollers with bolts for wheat or buckwheat, the total capacity being 200 or 225 cars. The mill is in excellent trim and very convenient to reach, having entrances on East Main street and Fort Hill Square. William D. Willoughby was born February 10, 1833, on the farm he now owns and



Photo by Burke.

T. W. ROBINSON'S MEAT MARKET.





BRADFORD G. GREENE.

occupies, which comprises 244 acres, and a part of which was originally purchased and settled by Bliss Willoughby, his grandfather, who came from Connecticut in 1804, and who died on the place in his eighty-second year. Then John B. Willoughby, father of William, owned it and also died there, May 12, 1885, at the age of 83 years. His wife, who was Nancy Shapley, died October 10, 1897, at the venerable age of 91 years and 4 months. William Willoughby is a member and for fifteen years a trustee of the Methodist church. On September 18, 1861, he married Lucy E. Wilcox (born October 22, 1835). Mr. Willoughby has engaged very largely in buying up and shipping horses and cattle. George B. Fletcher was born in Sidney, Delaware county, December 10, 1841. When he was very young his parents moved to Afton. He was educated at the Unadilla Academy. In 1881 he went to Williamsport, Pa., to engage in the milk business, coming to Oxford in 1886 and working the Corn Hill farm, a very conveniently and attractively located place in the western outskirts of the village, where he now lives, until he went into partnership with Mr. Willoughby. He married Amanda C. Eaton, descendant of an old Oxford family, March 12, 1873. Mr. Fletcher is a trustee of the Methodist church.

Bradford G. Greene left a monument to his public spirit and his untiring devotion to public improvement—the record of an earnest and zealous effort in behalf of a new public school. So it was with him in respect to every enterprise that calls for the practical demonstration of individual application of local pride. He was always ready to encourage public or individual enterprise. But Mr. Greene lived just long enough to see the material fruition of his wishes. The school building was fairly in process of construction at the time of his death, which occurred suddenly on Decem-

ber 6, 1896. The son of Frederick and Sophia (Baldwin) Greene, he was born in Steuben county, April 16, 1839. His parents were Oxford people who had moved away at the time, but who returned when he was two or three years old. He was educated at the Oxford Academy, and upon leaving school entered the office of Dr. Eccleston to learn dentistry. In October, 1861, he enlisted in the navy, being assigned to duty as surgeon and steward on the gunboat Port Royal, and afterwards in transport service. In 1863 he entered the merchant marine, where he continued two years, serving under his flag at many European stations, principally in the Mediterranean. Returning to Oxford in 1865, he resumed dentistry, which he continued a short time, and was soon after engaged at the jeweler's bench in the store of H. H. Cady. A year later Coville & Moore succeeded Cady, and Mr. Greene continued with them for about sixteen years, in the meantime taking the ticket and express agency for the N. Y., O. & W. R. R., and subsequently adding the coal business, all of which his wife assumed upon his death and is now continuing with success. Mr. Greene was active in social circles and a man of pleasing address, who made numerous friends and attained much popularity. He was kind to all, with a good word everywhere, having a most agreeable disposition and occasionally a dash of jocularity, enjoying fun at the right time and appreciating humor. He was an enthusiast in local G. A. R. matters, being a member of Breed Post; as he was also of Oxford Lodge, F. & A. M. Making a success of the coal business, he was first to take an interest in such other enterprises as might commend themselves to a keen business man, notably the Excelsior Mutual Insurance Company, of which he was one of the incorporators and at the time of his death a director and a member of the executive committee. In fact the directors of that company recognized his business capacity in a set of resolutions which they adopted at that time setting forth their loss of one who spent as much time and energy as he did in the development of the company, "cheerfully, faithfully, interestedly and without expectation of adequate compensation." The Board of Education also passed resolutions of regret in which they acknowledged his services in behalf of the school, declaring that he was largely instrumental in procuring the adoption of the Union Free School system and the passage of the necessary resolutions to provide for the erection of the building. The funeral on December 9, was the occasion of the general suspension of business, the several organizations of which he was a member attending in a body. Rev. W. T. Sutherland, of the



Photo by Burke.

WILLOUGHBY &amp; FLETCHER'S MILL.



Congregational church, conducted the services. Mr. Greene was a Republican and was drawn into active political work soon after his return to Oxford, about which time he was elected collector for the town. Upon the election of Harrison he was appointed postmaster, which position he occupied four years and eight months. On September 7, 1870, he married Marania Sisson, of Norwich. One son, Fred B., resides at Greenfield, Mass., and a son, Harry, at Oxford; also a sister, Miss Clara Greene, at Grand Rapids, Mich.

### KEY TO THE FIREMEN OF OXFORD.

[The four officers, A, B, C and D are in the center of the plate. The companies are grouped together beginning to number at the upper left hand corner of the plate and running across from left to right, as one reads the lines of a book.—SEE PAGE 31.]

A—Chief: John K. Glover (Niagara Hose Co.)  
B—Asst. Chief: John Lewis (foreman, Steamer Co.)  
C—Secretary: James P. Morgan (Steamer Co.)  
D—Treasurer: Frederick Burchard (treasurer, Niagara).

1	SAPPHO HOSE CO.	47	Taylor, James.
2	Foreman, G. P. Mead.	47	Wells, Robt.
3	Sec'y, N. P. Stanton.		HOOK AND LADDER CO.
4	Haldwin, R. H.	40	Foreman, Jas. D. Smith.
5	Bentley, W. A.	50	Sec & Treas, F. P. New-
6	Bissikummer, J. W.		kirk.
7	Hurke, F. R.	51	Coville, LeRoy.
8	Casey, E. M.	52	Curtis, H. A.
9	Harrison, Jndson.	53	Dodge, C. M.
10	Hayes, C. S.	53	Dolan, Martin.
11	Hicks, Albert.	55	Dunn, W. E.
12	Lewis, A. C.	55	Eccleston, Noyes.
13	Mack, Earl.	57	Knott, L. A.
14	McNeil, Fred.	58	Lamb, George.
15	Morton, S. J.	58	Lewis, G. W.
16	Powers, Will.	60	Philly, J. L.
17	Van Wagenen, W. L.	61	Porter, Walker.
	STEAMER CO. NO. 1.	62	Randall, Levy.
18	Asst. Foreman, James	63	Tracy, Fred.
	Oldfield	64	Vaters, Edgar.
19	Sec'y, Will M. Hinman.	65	Wheeler, G. R.
20	Treas. C. M. Huffman.		NIAGARA HOSE CO.
21	Bentley, J. J.	66	Foreman, H. Church.
22	Bowers, L. F.	67	Asst. Foreman, Wm.
23	Bowers, Luther.		H. Dunne.
24	Bowers, C. L.	68	Sec'y, T. A. Brown.
25	Byrne, M. J.	69	Bartlett, Charles.
26	Fisher, Emmet.	70	Coogan, John.
27	Fleming, Seymour.	71	Cronk, W. E.
28	Gibson, M. H.	72	Dalton, Irving.
29	Hall, N. J.	73	Gifford, E. R.
30	Hatch, Ed.	74	Harrington, J. W.
31	Hatch, John.	75	Hemgusway, C.
32	Hendrickson, Henry.	76	Kirschner, A. E.
33	Holdredge, Geo.	77	Lewis, E.
34	Hurlburt, Fred.	78	Lillis, J. J.
35	Husted, Myron.	79	Moniton, G. A.
36	Hyde, Asa P.	80	Newkirk, Frank.
37	Keyes, A.	81	Newkirk, Peter V.
38	Johnson, Charles.	82	Pangburn, Chas.
39	Keenan, Thomas.	83	Rorapangh, Fred.
40	King, J. P.	84	Rugg, George.
41	Matthewson, Miner.	85	Sanford, L. G.
42	Mowry, Fred.	86	Stratton, G. T.
43	Nesmith, W.	87	Stratton, H. C.
44	Quackenbush, G. W.	88	Stratton, V. D.
45	Sanders, Leland.	89	Tew, Elmer.
46	Shenfelt, DeWitt.	90	Titus, B.
	Stratton, LaVerne.		

**Impressions of Oxford.**—If one should step out from the New York train on the Ontario & Western railroad at 4:00 a. m. in August, at the station called "Oxf'rd," he would find himself at the top of a tall hill, in a clear, crisp atmosphere, with nothing in sight but a sea of fog rolling down the valley below. No town can be seen. But he is bundled into a 'bus and jolted down a seemingly endless hill. By the time he nears the valley, no fog is to be seen, but trees, trees innumerable are revealed, with an occasional church spire to announce the existence of a town.

The 'bus takes the road past a pretty little park, the pride of the village, and about which are situated many attractive residences. It may be at one of these that he is to stop, or he may go on over a hill, which is said to have been artificially built by the Indians as a burial mound, and later used for the location of a fort by the "pale-faces" who thought they had a better right to it.

On he goes, over the river and through the business part of the town, where his conception of Oxford receives a severe shock, even though it be

relieved to some extent by the handsome, new bank building. But Oxfordians are not proud of some of their business blocks. "They will do," and "that is good enough." Let us show our visitor the prettier parts of town.

On reaching his destination, tired and thirsty, he is warmly welcomed and hospitably received. The water is so clear, so pure, that he asks whence it comes, and is told, "from springs on the hills." It is almost chemically pure. Aqua pura indeed it is.

After he has become rested, he is introduced to the towns-people, and possibly a reception or party is given in his honor, for Oxford is a social town in the summer-time, and scarce three or four days go by without some special function. On first acquaintance, the people seem a little distant and cold, though he cannot complain that they are not everything that refinement can demand. But on better acquaintance he finds them true and firm, made of the stuff he can rely upon, and which makes friends who wear.

He is a college-man, of course, who has come among us, and he finds many college men and women in town who are ready to have a little "word scrap," as the German expressively puts it, with respect to the merits of the colleges which they love the best. But no ill-feeling is ever developed.

But now the conversation is turned to the schools at which these young people have been prepared. The ancient Oxford academy of course is paramount, the institution which all Oxonians love, founded in the wilderness, when Oxford consisted of only a few scattered houses, built before the church even, and which has flourished and each year graduated its portion of refined and well educated natives. This has, of course, had its influence on the character and tone of the town, and this in part explains why there is so much culture and refinement to be met with in this little place. The more than the century of its existence has left its mark on the successive generations of Oxonians.

Our friend is to stay only a short time, but before he goes, we must take him up the river in the naphtha launch. We point out to him the lower cove, where we enjoy the skating when we are home on our Christmas vacation, and the pretty little "Willow Point Cottage," which is always brilliantly lighted up at night. On we go, up this winding and most picturesque Chenango, enjoying this lazy-man's way of getting over the water, and pass the power-house of the Soldiers' Home, and the "Tramps' Camp," where we count twenty-eight of the so-called "Hoboes." On reaching "Feeder Dam," which was once the feeder of the old canal, we disembark and go up on the mason-work, and tumble off. But we are now discovering that Oxford air makes us hungry, so let us get back. Perhaps we may be able to come again.

Our friend feels that he can stay no longer, although he would very much like to do so, he has had such a good time. So we see him off on the valley road, and his last words are: "I swear I will come back again as soon as I possibly can." He, like all others who ever come to this village, has the well known "Oxford fever," which brings all back some time, to renew old pleasures and refresh old memories.—[ORROK PAUL COLLOQUE.]

The Ladies' Whist Club is one of the leading social organizations which has flourished for two years. The club has been in the habit of meeting bi-weekly at the residences of the members. Those composing the club are Mrs. J. R. Van Wagenen, Mrs. Charles W. Brown, Mrs. O. H. Curtis, Mrs. J. G. Van Wagenen, Mrs. S. E. Brown, Mrs. M. D. McNeil, Mrs. J. W. Bissikummer, Mrs. H. J. Galpin, Mrs. F. S. Millard.

John W. Bissikummer conducts one of the largest drug stores in the country, carrying a large line of all kinds of drugs and patent medicines, notions and toilet articles, and especially wall paper and borders, not forgetting to mention an extensive supply of tobaccos and cigars. The store is in the two-story stone building on North Canal street, at the head of Lafayette Square. It comprises the main salesroom, the prescription, the chemical and the wall paper, carpet and oil cloth departments. He came to Oxford in 1855, and was employed as a clerk for James B. Brown until 1890, when he succeeded him in the business. This was followed by increasing his stock and extending the trade so that to-day it is second to none in the village and is equivalent to many retail city drug stores in variety of goods sold and amount of business done annually. He was born in Alban,

It is due to the ladies that the beautiful Washington Park, with its velvety lawns and ornamental shrubbery, is made to take the place of an open and unimproved plot of mud; that Lafayette Square is made attractive by a neatly curbed grass plot with a fountain playing in the center; that a street sprinkler, which the society owns, is in constant use in the summer keeping down the dust. The ladies get no compensation, yet they perform many unthankful tasks because they are public-spirited. By means of a New England supper annually and a course of winter entertainments, and occasionally by diplomacy, it may be said, they raise a neat sum every year which is expended in beautifying the streets and squares. Since 1832 they have raised and expended the sum of \$4,169.34. The society has a constitution and by-laws and the membership is limited to twenty. On September 8, 1879, a meeting of the

ladies of Oxford was held to devise ways and means of constructing a park on Lafayette Square, Mrs. F. P. Newkirk presiding, Mrs. D. B. Smith was elected president; Mrs. H. E. Lewis, vice-president; Mrs. F. P. Newkirk, treasurer; Mrs. C. A. Bennett, Jr., secretary. A board of directors and an executive committee were also appointed. They then went to work with a will, fully determined to accomplish the object in view. Money was raised by giving entertainments and a subscription started, which ranged from \$5.00 to two cents. Among the names of subscribers we notice that of Eli Corbin, S. H. Farnham, S. Bundy, J. Fred Sands, F. E. Billings, Mrs. H. L. Miller, Mrs. N. A. VanWagenen, Mrs. H. R. Mygatt and many others, who encouraged the work, while the majority said, "You can never accomplish it." The first New England supper was given in 1880, and has proved a pleasant and successful annual entertainment. On June 1, 1881, a committee of three was appointed by the board of trustees to decide upon the grading and curbing of a park on Lafayette Square, 150 by 62 feet. The expense of grading, curbing, obtaining water and setting the fountain was \$1,000. The fountain was given as a memorial to the late Calvin Cole by his sons at a cost of \$1,000. On July 17, 1884, the fountain was formally presented to the village of Oxford. The exercises were opened by Major O. H. Curtis, who introduced

Mr. Irving T. Cole, who made the presentation speech. Dr. D. M. Lee, president of the village, replied in acceptance of the gift. A poem by Miss Lucy Balcom was read by Rev. L. F. Moore. The Hon. William H. Hyde delivered a finely written dedication address. In 1882 the society reorganized under the name of the Ladies' Village Improvement Society, to consist of twenty members. They have taken care of the parks, given lecture courses, bought opera chairs and a street sprinkler (Studebaker's best), at a cost of \$300.30. They are also a committee known as the firemen's relief, to make coffee and provide refreshments in case of fire. The present officers are: Mrs. C. H. Eccleston, President; Miss Adelaide Mead, Vice-President; Mrs. J. Thorp, Treasurer; Mrs. Edward Gray, Secretary.



INTERIORS OF JOHN W. BISSIKUMMER'S DRUG STORE

Jan. 3, 1856, and was graduated at the High School in that city, afterwards taking a course in the New York College of Pharmacy, at which he was graduated in 1873. He was with Sautter, on Pearl St., and afterwards with Gaus also in business in Buffalo, 1874-9 and in Utica, from which place he came to Oxford 1879-85. He is a director in the Excelsior Mutual Insurance Co., and a charter member of the local tribe of Red Men, in which fraternity he is known all over the state, having occupied the high post of Great Sachem of the great council. In 1877 he married Miss Kirchner, of Troy.

The Ladies' Village Improvement Society is entitled to a great deal of credit for the work it has accomplished in effecting public improvement.

**Kenotah Tribe, No. 105, I. O. of R. M.**—It is one of the characteristics of our people to be members of various organizations, social, fraternal, or beneficiary, and it is a practice to be encouraged; contact with their fellow-men has a tendency to broaden their ideas, enlighten their minds and build up character, and it is for the purpose of bringing attention to one of the leading fraternal organizations that exists. This short sketch is submitted. Secret societies are classified as social, fraternal, beneficiary or political. Some exist for the purpose of development in one particular line, while others have a combination of all the titles enumerated. The Improved Order of Red Men comes under the latter class, with the exception of the political feature. As a social, benevolent and fraternal organization it has no equal, and its growth during the last 10 years excites the envy of others who date back many years longer than ours. Our name has often caused comment, and the minds of those who are not acquainted with its features are apt to compare it with the Indians, as we know them at present. A celebrated General is quoted as saying, based upon his experience with the red men, that in his estimation, the only real good Indian he knew was a dead Indian. He may have been justified in that assertion. The Indian of to-day and his condition can be traced to his contact with the pale face or white people. It is not our intention to enter into the reasons of his present condition, but rather to call attention to the original American Indian as he was when this continent was his and he knew no master. Four hundred years ago this continent was peopled by a race, the noblest type of man in his natural state that has ever been discovered. Loyal, brave, free, intelligent, steadfast in their friendships, they had many virtues which the civilized nations might emulate. In their code no such crime as theft is mentioned; contrast them with our later-day "kleptomaniacs," defaulters and embezzlers. The legends of the primitive red men prove their courage, loyalty, kindness, and moral worth; with them a kindness was never forgotten, a pledge sacredly kept. The hand of friendship was never extended unless the heart accompanied it. In many ways were they remarkable people, and is a sad commentary that through contact with a superior race, the downfall of a once powerful nation was accomplished. It is these virtues characteristic of the original Red Men that the Improved Order of Red Men desire to emulate and teach in their ritualistic ceremonies. Our order had not a little to do with the struggle for Independence in 1776, and it is with pride that the Red Men point to the part played by them in those trying times. The history of the United States tells us of the societies known as the Sons of Liberty and Saint Tamnia, and we have the evidence that our organization is the successors of those societies; many of the ritualistic ceremonies used by them being in vogue with us. Every school boy can recite the acts of that body of men, disguised as Indians, who at Boston, emptied the tea in the harbor, giving England to know that the iniquitous tax would not be paid; that taxation without representation was not the form of government for them; that they proposed to found a government of their own, of the people and by the people. That disguised band of men were members of the Sons of Liberty. In order to advise with each other and to prove who were with them, these organizations were formed, and it was natural for those seeking a disguise, to adopt that of the Indians who were their neighbors, and whose costumes would excite least suspicion. After the success of the revolution these societies took more of a political character and were interested in the formation of the new government. One branch up to the present time retains its political

character, the society of Tammany, of New York; the other came into activity as a fraternal and beneficial organization and in 1832 adopted the present title, the Improved Order of Red Men. At the present time it numbers 160,000, established in 40 states and territories. It expends yearly large amounts in the payment of sick and death benefits. The following statement is taken from the reports submitted in September, 1897: Receipts from dues, \$815,350; expended for sick benefits, \$363,750; for relief of widows, \$18,480; for burials, 114,586; amount invested, \$1,680,210. When it is taken into consideration that the average dues per member is \$6 per year, the good accomplished at a slight cost is incalculable. Local Tribes have jurisdiction of their own funds, fix the amount of dues per member, and the amount to be paid for sick and funeral benefits, the minimum amount being \$3 per week for 13 to 26 weeks continuous sickness or disability, and from \$25 to \$200 funeral benefits. Surely we cannot have too many organizations of this kind who relieve the distressed, feed the hungry and clothe the poor—from the orphans' eyes the tears remove, the widow's heart to soothe and calm affliction's sigh. In the village of Oxford, Dec. 9, 1886, Kenotah Tribe, 105 was instituted with 33 charter members, by the then Gt. Sachem, Geo E. Green, of Binghamton, assisted by Wamsutta Tribe 37. (Brother Green will next year become the head of the order with title Gt. Incohonee). The tribe has one of the handsomest wigwags in the country, situated in the old Masonic rooms, in the post-office block and has about 100 active members, composed of business and professional men and mechanics. They have a comfortable wampum (money) belt, have paid out large amounts in benefits, and are constantly adding to their membership. The officers for the present term are: W. M. Hinman, Sachem; J. E. Coogan, Sr. Sagamore; Wm. Miller, Jr. Sagamore; St. John Morton, Prophet; James D. Morgan, C. of R.; G. W. Franklin, Col. of W.; Jno. W. Bissikummer, K. of W.; Geo. W. Holdredge, Trustee.—P. G. Sachem, J. W. BISSIKUMMER.

**Dr. Eugene M. Casey** located in Oxford September, 1894, and has built up a large veterinary practice, making dairy cattle his special field of study. In a section with such large dairy interests as this the treatment of cattle is an important part of a veterinarian's duties and the responsibility imposed on him is greater than is generally supposed. The creameries to which most of the milk is taken are exacting as to the condition of the dairy, and it is important that the health of cattle should be carefully and intelligently cared for. Dr. Casey was born at Port Jervis, March 11, 1871, and was educated in the public schools. He was graduated at the Ontario Veterinary College, Toronto, March 23, 1893, a winner of honors and of a prize in anatomy for dissection, of which he made a special study and in which he has met with marked success, generally experiencing the best results in that particular line of practice. Upon leaving school he settled in New Milford, Susquehanna county, Pa., his old home, where his practice of a year and a half gave him the experience which has proven valuable in a wider field. After settling here he engaged largely in the inspection of horses for intended purchasers, at the same time having the professional care of several large dairies. He purchased the residence No. 35 Washington avenue, where his office is located. Last year he returned to New Milford and married Agnes DeWitt, April 8, 1896. He is a member of the New York State Veterinary Medical Association, of the Improved Order of Red Men and of Sappho Hose Co. He was for two years president of the High School Alumni of New Milford.



The Excelsior Mutual Life Association of Oxford, N. Y., was organized under the name of The Chenango Mutual Relief in 1881. It found an apology and an occasion for its birth in the fact that up to that time insurance companies doing business in the State under the "old line" plan furnished life insurance at altogether too great an expense to the insured, and in the belief that lower and more reasonable rates would invite many who perhaps had looked upon such investments as desirable, but beyond their financial ability. For some years the Association transacted its business under the Post Mortem Assessment plan, which has since been changed for what is known as the Flexible Premium plan.

to resign. Many others might be mentioned to whose valuable aid and co-operation the Association is indebted. Assisted by such men as these, Mr. Charles W. Brown must be considered as the founder and originator of the Association. From 1881 to 1890, Mr. Brown was its Secretary, and for many years now has been its President. He has been its general manager from the start. To him belongs the credit of devising and elaborating its plan of insurance. His wise and conservative management has carried the Association safely over many shoals and rapids which have tested the frailty of other companies, and has brought it to its present high standard of excellence and stable financial condition. Mr. Wm. K. Jacobs



Photos by Burke. OFFICES OF THE EXCELSIOR MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.

Many of the ablest business men of the town were early interested in the direction of the enterprise, prominent among whom may be mentioned Dr. D. M. Lee, who, from the start until his death, was its Medical Director and was deeply interested in its welfare; Bradford G. Greene, who was, until his death in December, 1896, a valued member of the Executive Committee; J. R. VanWagenen, President of the First National Bank, who has been a member of the Board of Directors from the origin of the Association until the present time, and has contributed largely to the accurate business methods which have characterized the management. F. G. Clarke, senior member of the F. G. Clarke Blue Stone Co., also held a prominent place on the Board of Directors until his increasing business cares compelled him

came into the employ of the Company in 1889 and was made Secretary the following year, a position which he has filled with ability, faithfulness and loyalty, to the present time. The increasing business at the home office calls for considerable clerical force which has been headed for upwards of a year by Mr. Fred'k A. McNeil. Dr. J. W. Thorp is the present Medical Director of the Association and his care and skill give assurance that the high standard heretofore established in the selection of risks will be fully maintained under his administration. Mr. J. C. Philley has for fourteen years given the Association most efficient service as general agent and has justly earned a position in the Board of Directors, to which he has recently been elected. Mr. Philley has charge of the agents operating in the original field of the Association. As a





T. B. GALPIN.

WELLINGTON ALEXANDER.

field worker he has no superior. Notwithstanding the rapid growth of the Company it retained its original name, The Chenango Mutual Relief, until April 15th, 1897, when by an Act of the Legislature of the State of New York it assumed its present name, The Excelsior Mutual Life Association, as more fitting its progressive nature and the increasing territory of its operations. Its business is no longer confined to New York State, but it has already entered upon an extensive business in Pennsylvania and Connecticut, and will soon be admitted to do business in other states. Mr. DeWitt P. Preston, whose large experience in insurance business for many years in Hartford, Conn., admirably qualifies him for the work, has recently accepted the position of Superintendent of Agencies and will have charge of the remote fields. It is safe to say that the careful and prudent management of The Excelsior Mutual Life Association with its accumulated assets, larger in proportion to its business than that of any other organization of the kind in the State, assures its patrons safer and cheaper insurance than is offered by any other company. The Association has clear net assets of over \$80,000 and nearly four millions of dollars of insurance in force. The officers are: Charles W. Brown, President; Frank T. Corbin, Vice-President; William K. Jacobs, Secretary; Charles O. Wilcox, Treasurer; John W. Thorp, M. D., Medical Director. Board of Directors: Charles W. Brown, Frank T. Corbin, John R. Van Wagenen, Hon. William F. Jenks, Hon. Elliot Danforth, Charles O. Wilcox, Frederick H. Burchard, Milard D. McNeil, John W. Bissikummer, Richard M. Clark, M. D., J. C. Philley.

The Oxford Times, whose worth can probably be no better attested than by the fact that for sixty years it has reflected the happenings and championed the interests of its town and county, and is now the sole survivor of the journalistic enterprises which in years past have been launched upon the same community, was founded in 1836 by a joint stock company. In 1841 it passed into the hands of Purdy & Brigham, from whom it was in turn transferred to Waldo M. Potter in 1844. After one year of undivided responsibility he shared the conduct of the paper with Judson B. Galpin, who came to Oxford possessed of an experience accrued from more pretentious journalistic connections in the Nutmeg State. In 1848 Mr. Galpin assumed entire control of the paper, and his death in February, 1893, marked the close of a continuous connection of forty-eight years with *The Times*. The paper then passed into the hands of his eldest son, Theodore B. Galpin, who had for some time been actively connected with its publication. With the beginning of a new year he disposed of a one-half interest to Wellington Alexander, and under their joint management the business is now conducted.

Although one of the oldest of Oxford's institutions, *The Times* has nothing of senility in its spirit or make up. It stands for Oxford first, last and all the time, and this sentiment, dominating as it does not only its reading columns but its business management as well, has won a generous appreciation from the public. The scrupulousness with which *The Times* has adhered to the cause of local interests has not always been to its immediate pecuniary advantage, but its publishers have the satisfaction of knowing that its stand is approved by its home advertisers and that it is therein strengthening its foundation for future permanency.

*The Times* is one of those papers which believes in owning its own home, preferring to assume its share of tax-paying rather than trust to the uncertainty of tenantry in a building which by continued occupation had been brought to a peculiar fitness for the needs of such a business. Accord-



C. W. BROWN'S RESIDENCE.

J. C. PHILLEY'S RESIDENCE.

GEORGE B. FLETCHER'S RESIDENCE.

ingly in 1895 its present proprietors acquired possession of the building in which they are located and have since made improvements which have bettered the facilities for the business of job printing which they carry on in connection with their publication. In GRAY'S interview he was shown specimens of fine work which were far above the ordinary, and the particular care which this branch of the business has received has given *The Times* office a repute which has reached far beyond local surroundings.

Messrs. Galpin & Alexander attribute much of their success to their familiarity with the mechanical part of their business, both of them being practical printers, and having the work of the office under their personal supervision. Mr. Galpin has, it may be said, been identified with *The Times* from his boyhood. He was born in Oxford on the 23d day of January, 1846, and even in the days when he was receiving his preliminary education at the Oxford Academy he was wont to divide his time out of school with work at the office, such as rolling the forms on the old Washington hand press (which is to this day preserved in the office), or essaying the composition of a short piece of reprint. Later he spent some time at the Cazenovia Seminary, a school of considerable repute in those days, and at the close of his school days there he began his active connection with the paper, which has never ceased to this day. In fact, during the closing years of his father's life it was he upon whom the greater part of the responsibility devolved. Mr. Galpin has never married, the wily cupid having failed to make him a victim of its caprice. He is possessed of an inimitable natural humor and is popular among a large circle of friends and professional brethren, to whom he is more familiarly known as "Dode."

Mr. Alexander, although descended from ancestors who have been more or less connected with Oxford's history, has had a wider sphere of activity. He was born in Greene, N. Y., on Thanksgiving day of the year 1871, an event which was followed about two years later by the death of his father. The early part of his life was spent with his grandparents in Oxford, and later he spent some years with relatives in Connecticut, where he received the greater part of his education and became attracted to the printing business. At the age of seventeen he entered the office of the Seymour, Ct., *Times*, and later was employed on the *Record* of the same place. From there he returned to Oxford, and his connection with *The Times* has since been unbroken. He was married in 1895 to Lilian M. French, a young lady of excellent attainments, and by whom he has one son—a promising boy named Paul. Mr. Alexander has exhibited the qualifications for success at an early stage in life and his integrity of character has never been assailed.

Burchard Bros., the leading hardware and plumbing house of Oxford, are successors to Van Der Lyn & Co., whom they bought out Jan. 1, 1888. The firm comprises Frederick H. and Albert S. The former went into the business as clerk Aug. 18, 1874, when it was conducted by Wm. A. Martin. On Feb. 22, 1878, he formed a copartnership with Ward Van Der Lyn under the firm name of Van Der Lyn & Co., which continued until his brother stepped in and the present firm was organized. The business is one of the largest along the line of the Ontario & Western R. R., and it is doubtful if there is any house between Binghamton and Utica which handles the hardware and especially the quantity of agricultural implements that is sold yearly by this firm. During the forty years this house, with its few proprietary changes, has been in existence it has made a reputation for fair dealing and reliable goods which has extended throughout the country. The line embraces everything that is used as an implement on the farm, also a complete supply of builders' hardware,

house furnishing goods, wagons, sleighs and carriages, stoves and ranges, gas fittings, and kindred articles too numerous to mention. Taking up what it regards as the best, the firm makes a special drive on the New York State Champion Horse Rake and the Adriance, Platt & Co. Buckeye Mowers. With the advent of gas and water in the village Burchard Bros. are especially equipped for modern plumbing after the most approved sanitary methods. They are also engaged in considerable large work in tin roofing and are as well large handlers of furnaces, especial-



A. S. BURCHARD.

F. H. BURCHARD.

ly recommending the Richardson & Boynton, which they have sold for the past twenty years, and the Kelsey, another equally good furnace. Both members of the firm are active in public matters and prominent in social and fraternal circles, being members of the Masonic order. Their parents moved from New York to Preston forty years ago, and in 1866 came to Oxford, where they gave their children the school advantages which, at that time, were considered much superior here than in adjoining towns. Burchard Bros. are among the promoters and incorporators of the new gas company and are members of the fire department. Fred. was born in New York Aug. 1, 1855, and on Dec. 23, 1879, married Ellen, the daughter of Dr. Bruchhausen of Norwich. He is treasurer of the fire department and the Niagara Hose Company, as well as of the village. Albert was born in Preston May 27, 1862. He was a clerk for VanDerLyn & Co. several years ago, afterwards being engaged with other firms and, in 1885-'6, as bookkeeper in the bank. He married Mary, the daughter of Ward VanDerLyn, Jan. 6, 1891.

**E. M. Rider**, the furnishing goods merchant in the new bank building, opened his store in April, 1896, with such a line of men's wearing apparel as had not previous to that time been placed on sale in Oxford. This store is really one of the finest finished stores in Oxford, being in keeping throughout with the style and elegance which is provided in every part of the bank building. Mr. Rider came to Oxford in February, 1895, and opened business in the old Fort Hill building on the east side of the river. Seeing the advantage of a modern store, at the time the bank was constructed he was first to secure the only store in the building. It is 72x22, with large windows front and rear, especially front, which affords excellent display to the street, and with every convenience for arrangement of goods. The line of goods carried are men's readymade clothing, hats, caps, underwear and furnishings, rubber goods and shoes for ladies, children and men. Mr. Rider was born in Winfield, Herkimer Co., 1861, and was engaged in business there some years. At one time he was connected with the mail service.

**Harvey Morton** is one of the oldest jewelers in this section, having been engaged in the business for forty years. Coming to Oxford in 1890, he bought out J. W. Cudworth and continued the business ever since at the same place, in the Harrington building, on Main street. The stock comprises everything in the jewelers' line and the bench work is still kept up by Mr. Morton. He is assisted by his son, who has established a lucrative trade in cameras and photographers' supplies, dealing largely in the Eastman Kodack and the Rochester Optical Co.'s cameras. He is also the agent for many of the best bicycles. The stock of goods comprises watches and all kinds of solid and plated ware, jewelry in the latest designs, diamonds, clocks, etc. Mr. Harvey Morton was born in Franklin, Delaware Co., Oct. 11, 1833. He began bench work at his chosen trade in Downsville, about 1850 and was also employed at Cannonsville. In 1873 he purchased a stock of goods and opened a store in Walton, where he continued the business until he came here. He married Emma Niles, of Walton, in February, 1865. S. J. Morton was born at Walton, January 3, 1872. He is a member of the Red Men, occupying the Prophet's stump; the Sappho Hose Co.; the Riverside Wheelmen's Club; the L. A. W., and the Century Road Club, of America.

**Loomis & Cowles**, dealers in general merchandise, formed a copartnership and bought out F.

**L. Perkins**, taking possession Dec. 1, 1890. Their place of business occupies a favorable location facing Lafayette square in the central part of the village. It was established several years ago and was conducted by N. W. Perkins for a number of years, it always having enjoyed the same lucrative trade of to-day. When Loomis & Cowles assumed the business they added several staple lines, and because the farmer could get about all he wanted in this one place, the business was greatly increased. The stock comprises dry goods, notions, groceries and crockeryware. Mr. Cowles was a clerk under Mr. Perkins and by making a wide acquaintanceship and selling goods wholly on their merits he made that place popular with the trade. Mr. Burdette H. Loomis was born at Smithville, May 26, 1863. He was a student of the Oxford Academy, where he was graduated in 1885, afterwards attending Tuft's College, Mass., where he was graduated in the classical course in 1889. The present business enterprise is his first. Mr. Daniel B. Cowles was born in Smithville, Aug. 22, 1863, and attended school at the Homer and the Oxford academies. In

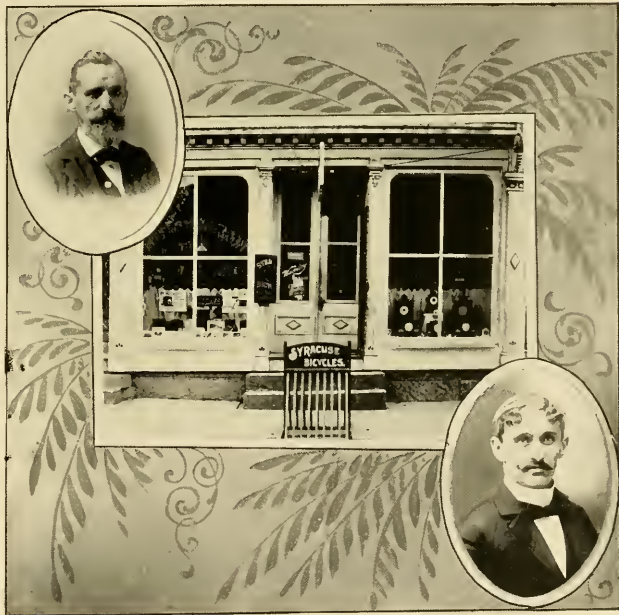


Photo by Burke.  
HARVEY MORTON.

HARVEY MORTON'S JEWELRY STORE.

S. J. MORTON.

1884 he entered the store of which he is now part owner as a clerk. He is a member of the Niagara Hose Co.

**Oxford Legion, No. 24**, was organized April 1st, 1892. The amount paid in sick claims is \$1,660; amount paid in death benefits \$900; amount paid in dividends \$3,500. Officers for the present year: President, Herbert J. Saunders; Vice President, Ella Cooper; Past President, Judson A. Root; Secretary, Edith Saunders; Treasurer, Fayette Carpenter; Chaplin, Roxanna E. Rogers; Conductor, Henry H. Meade; Doorkeeper, Henry Holmes; Outside Doorkeeper, Leland Saunders.



John E. Miller was for several years engaged in quarrying blue and gray stone, and while personally not active in the business at the present time, he still owns one of the most valuable and extensive deposits of true blue stone in the state, which is situated three miles northwest of the village of Greene, Chenango county, and is only partially developed; a quarry which lies within a few feet of the surface, thus exacting comparatively little labor and expense in uncovering it. It offers such an abundance of building and flag stone that Mr. Miller anticipates its further development in the immediate future. Mr. Miller is a native of Oxford who received a liberal education and who was graduated at the Oxford academy, the valedictorian of his class, and at Yale with honors, where he obtained the degree of A. M., and later, A. B.

Beardsley in quarrying and shipping blue stone at South Oxford, which partnership continued only a year and a half. Mr. Beardsley was one of the pioneers in the practical part of the blue stone business in this section, and was for many years assisted by his brother-in-law, Daniel W. Walker, and George Symonds. The organization of this firm led to the opening of three additional quarries, two in Greene and one in Smithville, from which all shipments were made on cars and by canal at Greene, the firm having several boats in commission for this service. In the fall of 1872 another quarry was purchased and about a hundred men put at work. This opened a very fine grade of gray sandstone. It was located in the town of McDonough and, together with the Smithville quarry, produced large platform stone with a surface so smooth as to seldom require the use of chisels for finishing. From these beds were taken immense quantities of stone to be



THE APPROACH TO JOHN E. MILLER'S QUARRY.

His instructors included Merritt G. McKoon and Prof. David G. Barbour, the former having been an instructor of his parents. Upon leaving school he spent two years as clerk in his father's store and three years in banking, being the first teller of the First National Bank of Oxford, where he was employed for about two years, and subsequently occupying the same position for more than a year in the State National Bank of Minneapolis. While there he declined a flattering proposal to accept the cashiership and a place in the directory of a bank which was being organized in Des Moines, Ia., by prominent men, among whom were the Lieutenant Governor of that state and Chief Justice Chester C. Cole, formerly of Oxford. His desire was to pursue an active out-door business, this being the special reason why, after registering at Albany as student in law, he decided not to follow that profession. In June, 1872, Mr. Miller entered into copartnership with Mr. William C.

used in the construction of the Elmira reformatory and prison. The contractors, Keeler & Houck, of Owego, were unable to procure the stone of the required dimensions and quality or in sufficient quantity in any other quarries to supply the cell floors and the coping for the prison yard wall. Soon after, the fifth quarry, located in Greene, was added to the enormous source of supply at the command of this firm, the business of which had by this time become so widely extended as to necessitate the establishment of blue stone yards and agencies in various cities and towns throughout the state. The extent of the business, the large number of quarries and the several and widely distributed agencies, as well as the several important contracts, required considerable activity on the part of Mr. Miller, driving over the hills to look after the quarries, visiting the several agencies and supervising contracts, the latter taking him to Syracuse, as far east as Amsterdam, Waterville, Owego and numerous



other places. He also gave employment to many men the year around, spending thousands of dollars during the winter to keep his men busy. To indicate the scope of this enterprise at this time it is only necessary to point to a sketch published in the latest history of the county giving it considerable prominence. After the retirement of Mr. Beardsley, which was in the fall of 1873, Mr. Miller conducted the business alone with success up to the fall of 1880, when, desiring to introduce his stone in New York city, he submitted two car-loads of sample blue stone to the inspection of the old firm of Hurst & Treanor at their yards in West Forty-fifth street, which he shipped there for that purpose, accompanying it himself. Finding it difficult to get this variety of stone elsewhere, the New York firm proposed to take a half interest in the business at Oxford. On January 25, 1881, articles of copartnership for two years were signed to engage in "mining and manufac-

others of extra large size. Following the expiration of the copartnership Mr. Miller disposed of the stone interest, except one of the Greene and the McDonough quarries. The importance of the business is further shown by several news paragraphs published in the newspapers throughout the country at the time, a few of which are here reproduced: "Large Contract.—We learn that Miller & Beardsley have taken the contract to supply the state prison now building at Elmira, with stone for the floors of all the cells in that institution. It is a large contract, amounting to about \$20,000. The stone are to be taken from their Smithville quarry and delivered at the depot in Greene.—Chenango American, 1873." "Another Contract.—Miller & Beardsley, stone dealers of this village, have just secured another contract for stone for the state prison now building at Elmira. The contract amounts to \$9,000 and is for coping stone for the yard wall. Oxford



THE OPENING IN JOHN E. MILLER'S QUARRY.

turing all kinds of blue and gray sandstone for flagging, curbing, buildings, posts, blocks, sills, water tables, lintels, etc., from the best quarries in central New York." The firm comprised W. H. Hurst, James J. Treanor, Frank P. Treanor, supt., and John E. Miller, associated under the name of John E. Miller & Co. During the pendency of this firm some large contracts were made to furnish quantities of stone for large buildings in course of construction in New York, among which were the new Produce Exchange, cost two millions, and the D. O. Mills, cost \$2,500,000, besides Grant's mausoleum. A large order was received for a \$10,000 platform stone to be placed in front of William H. Vanderbilt's residence on Fifth avenue. This stone was quarried at Smithville and weighed between twenty and thirty tons, but on account of its size could not be transported. The firm furnished a large platform stone for the Hon. Titus Sheard of Little Falls, two for the Hon. J. Sloat Fassett and several

is now furnishing stone for this institution taken a short distance from the site offered the commissioners on which to locate the prison here.—Oxford Times, 1873." "Still Another.—Miller & Beardsley of Oxford, have secured a third contract for building stone for the Elmira prison amounting to \$4,000.—Oxford Times." "Cannot Be Surpassed.—Rome, N. Y., July, 1876.—Among the many excellent features of the new five-story McHarg block in this city, not the least worthy of notice are the broad flag walks which adorn it upon two sides. The stone were taken from the famous Smithville quarry of Miller & Beardsley at Oxford, Chenango Co., and cannot be surpassed in smoothness, beauty of surface, size or quality. Many of the flags are ten and eleven feet in length, containing from eighty to one hundred square feet. In thickness they vary from three to seven inches. The walk is twenty feet wide and contains about 5,500 feet of stone.—Utica Herald."

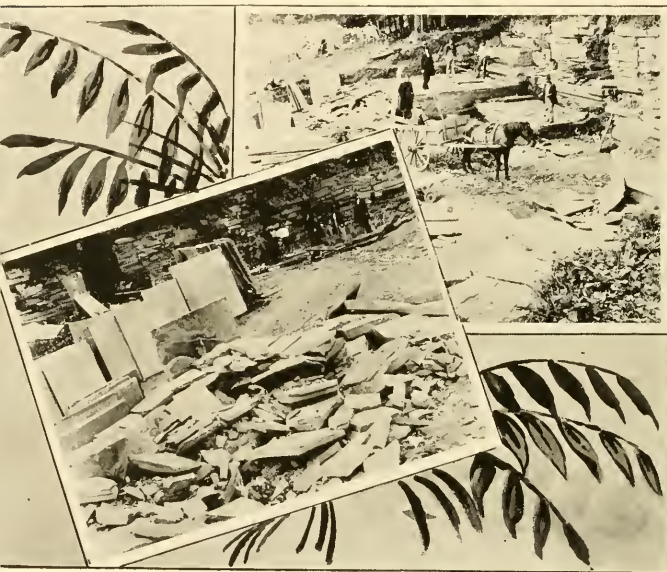
The Oxford W. C. T. U. was organized by Mrs. Clara O. Hadley, on March 22, 1897. Mrs. C. B. Parsons was the first president. The Union has 44 active and 14 honorary members. Four departments of work have been taken up: Mothers' meetings, Sunday school work, Literature and Narcotics. Other departments are soon to follow, as these white ribboners are in hearty sympathy with their motto: "For God and Home and Every Land." Meetings are held semi-monthly in the Y. M. C. A. rooms, which that association have kindly offered for the use of the Union. The officers: President, Mrs. D. D. Corbin; Vice Presidents, Mrs. P. G. Jacobs, Mrs. H. Tew, Mrs. Geo. Mallory, Miss Julia Swan; Recording Secretary, Mrs. F. E. Beadle; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. D. Race; Treasurer, Mrs. S. Moore.

sible to handle, in blocks of unusually smooth surface, and along natural seams, without any needs. It is the best available stone for curbing, flagging sills, lintels, coping, water tables; in fact for all purposes where stone can be used not to exceed six inches in thickness; very nice rock face—nice cutting stone. The stone wherever used is giving excellent satisfaction, and during the brief time the quarry has been worked, shipments have been made to several places, not only in this but in other states; and the prospects for a largely increased demand next season are very flattering. The firm have not taken many orders for large stone this year, although the opportunity has often been presented but they will be prepared next year to take orders for any size stone in general use, and will make contracts to lay, as well as furnish stone.

The firm, comprising John R. Glover and James Oldfield, were organized June 1, 1897, for the purpose of opening the quarry. Mr. Oldfield having been the first to discover the deposit. He is a practical quarryman and is fully acquainted with all branches of the business. He is a native of England and came to this country in 1865, coming to this county thirteen years ago, and since then being engaged in working in several quarries.

The Railroad Business of Oxford is greater than the average in towns of the same size. The D., L. & W., branching from Binghamton for Utica, follows the windings of the Chenango river and cuts through the residential portion of the village.

It is the direct route to New York. The agent is G. P. Mead, who is also the agent for the United States Express Co., and his assistant, also operators are S. H. Mead and T. R. Collins, the night operator is E. L. Walker. Along the railroad are eligible sites for factories to which side-tracks can be laid. The New York Condensed Milk Co. ships large quantities of milk to New York from this station. The average monthly shipment by this road of the productions of the various enterprises in the village is about two million pounds, not including milk, the average receipts by freight being about the same. The New York, Ontario & Western, laboring up hill and down, across the mountain ranges of Sullivan, Delaware and Chenango Counties, comes into Oxford on a side hill two or three hundred feet above the village, so that it is not convenient to receive freight and is a very round-about, laborious route to get over the country. The Oxford agent is C. W. Sherwood, an experienced railroad man who has been with the company 20 years, 17 of which in his present position. His assistant is F. Cating, the



Photos by Burke.  
LARGE FLAGS.

GLOVER & OLDFIELD'S QUARRY.

THE FACE AND LEDGES.

Glover & Oldfield's quarry is situated on the farm of Henry Mowrey, south of the Midland depot, the location being convenient to the N. Y., O. & W. R. R., so that stone is easily transferred to the cars in short hauls, thus saving time which, as every one knows, makes the expenses considerably lighter. The D., L. & W. R. R. down in the valley is also but a short distance from the quarry and being down hill and over good roads, the hauling of stone to the cars on that road is also greatly facilitated. Under such circumstances the firm is able to furnish stone to a greater advantage than many of its competitors, and to give its patrons the benefit of bottom figures. The quarry is yet in its infancy, having been opened only four or five months. It is opened back into the hill about forty feet, exposing a face of firm unbroken rock fully a hundred feet in length; with a bed of about eight feet now being worked. How much more bed there is, cannot of course at this time be ascertained, but the ledge gives every appearance of being inexhaustible. The rock pro-

Angell & Baldwin, located in what is known as "The Corner Store," at Main and Canal streets, succeeded M. A. Macomber July 10, 1897. They extended the scope of the business considerably, putting in a new line of all descriptions of boots and shoes and men's furnishings, including under-



GEORGE B. ANGELL. RALPH H. BALDWIN.

wear and hats and caps, as well as a varied assortment of trunks and satchels. Young men with progressive notions who are backed by the energy and capital possessed by this firm, knowing what will sell best, are generally successful; and that is exactly the case in this instance. Their business has grown to the dimensions that require still greater extension of floor space. This will be obtained in the course of the next few months, when the store will be second to none in the same line between Binghamton and Utica. Another feature of this business which has proven advantageous to customer as well as seller is that the one-price cash system, adopted in the beginning, has been strictly adhered to. This means a better stock to select from and much easier prices, the goods in all cases being reliable lines that are guaranteed, the firm keeping none other. Angell & Baldwin are also conducting a store in Cuyler, where they carry on a general merchandise business. George B. Angell, born on Cuyler Hill September 21, 1861, has been in mercantile business since 16 years of age, beginning as a clerk at that time in E. N. Andrews' general store at Lincklaen. Seven years later he received the appointment of postmaster of that place by President Cleveland and held that position four years, when he started in business at Cuyler. He was married in 1881. Ralph H. Baldwin, born at Pitcher November 23, 1871, entered Mr. Angell's store at Cuyler as a clerk in 1888. Two and a half years later he went with Hulburt & Mera at Tully, later with Seamans & Baker at Cortland, and after that with Seamans Bros. at Marathon, where he remained four years. He is a member of the Sappho Hose Company.

Chenango Valley Lodge No. 85, I. O. G. T., was organized at Oxford, February 25, 1891. The first meeting was held in the Baptist church, with the County Chief Templar in the chair. The charter members were as follows: Rev. C. B. Parsons, Rev. W. T. Sutherland, J. S. Dunn, George H. Dunn, Miss Florence Baker, Miss Ester Root, Miss Lena Root, Miss Bessie Smith, Miss Alice Hendrickson, Miss Anna Drake, Martin Church, Mrs. Martin Church, Austin Church, Clarence

Drake Frank Root, George Ingraham, Benjamin Bullock, Miss Emma Moore, George L. Stafford, Seth Bullock James Root. The first officers were: C. T., Rev. C. B. Parsons; V. T., Bessie Smith; Secretary, Lena Root; T., Frank L. Root; F. S., Benjamin Bullock; Chaplain Rev. W. T. Sutherland; Marshal, George Dunn; Guard, Miss Emma Moore; Sentinel, James Root; Assistant Secretary, Seth Bullock; D. M., Miss Alice Hendrickson; P. C. T., George L. Stafford; L. D., George Ingraham; S. J. T., Mrs. Martin Church. The Lodge seems to be progressing and now has about thirty members. It meets in Robinson's hall every two weeks. Everything looks favorable for a prosperous future.

Arthur C. Lewis, a young man, has achieved a flattering success in the insurance business. So well and faithfully has he represented the several interests confided to his care, that to-day he represents eight stock companies having combined assets of \$35,000,000, and controls probably the largest outside business of any agency in Oxford. In March, 1895, he secured one of the best office rooms in the village, the second floor front in the Bank building, overlooking Lafayette Square, where he is now located. Mr. Lewis was born in McDonough, Chenango county, October 5, 1873. He graduated from Oxford Academy in 1890, taught school for two years following and then located in Brooklyn, where he engaged in the fire insurance business. Returning to Oxford in 1894, he purchased the insurance business of Pudney & Freeman, formerly owned by Garret H. Perkins. They represented three companies—the Home of New York, the Niagara of New York, and the Merchants' of Providence, R. I., and did a business of about \$1,000 a year in premiums. Mr. Lewis pushed the business with such energy and determination that a larger line of companies was a necessity, and he has since added the Continental of New York, the Phenix of Brooklyn, the American Central of St. Louis, the Providence-Washington of Providence, R. I., and the Commercial Union of London, Eng., thus offering a choice of many first-class companies. In three



A. C. LEWIS.

years he has increased the premium income to about \$6,000 per year in place of \$1,000. He is a member of the Sappho Hose Company and a director and the treasurer of the Oxford Co-operative Savings and Loan Association, which has just been formed.





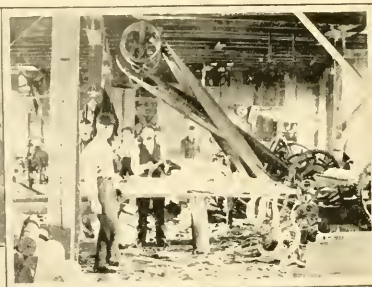
standing timber to be had when that is exhausted. The logs are drawn to the factory, where they are put through the steaming process and cut up for basket material by machinery of the latest pattern, put in last winter at a cost of from \$1,500 to \$2,000. The business of the firm is growing, with every possibility of doubling in a short time, as there is no other basket factory in this immediate vicinity. All kinds of fruit baskets and packages for grapes, peaches, berries, etc., are produced here, giving employment to from sixty to seventy-five hands. The production also includes cheap splint baskets for all purposes, as well as delivery baskets for groceries and laundries. This factory is of great benefit

Photo by Burke.

#### THE OXFORD BASKET FACTORY.

The Oxford Basket Works were moved from Ashtabula, O., where in 1887 they were started, in 1890, for the purpose of getting a better supply of timber and getting nearer the market, which is principally in the New England states, New York and Pennsylvania. The firm was originally James Gleason, W. C. Wright and C. A. Munyan. In 1891 Mr. T. C. Avis bought out Messrs. Wright and Gleason, and in the fall of 1894, upon the death of Mr. Avis, Mr. J. B. Redell assumed a part interest, the firm being Munyan & Redell. The latter was succeeded by C. L. Yates in the winter of 1896. Here a building located alongside the D., L. & W. R R., 160x50 feet, and comprising three floors was secured, having engine and dryer rooms attached and sheds for the storage of stock. The shipment of goods is facilitated by a branch track with accommodations for eight or ten cars, connecting with a spacious platform. The capacity of the institution is between two and three cars daily, which it is possible to largely increase. A tract of timber about three miles out of the village, sufficient to furnish material for two years was purchased, and there is plenty of other

fit to the village, many families drawing wages which in the course of the year aggregate several thousands of dollars. Mr. Munvan was born in Ravenna, Ohio, December 22, 1836, and for several years followed the occupation of stationary engineer, in addition to which he worked for some time as a mechanic. Twelve years ago he went into basket manufacturing at Kingsville, O., after which he went into the



THE OXFORD BASKET FACTORY.  
Photos by Burke. THE SHIPPING PLATFORM. THE LOG SHAVING MACHINE.

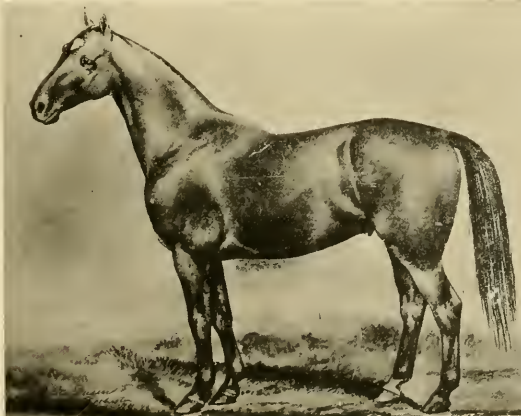


KIRCHNER &amp; JOHNSON'S QUARRY.

present business. He married Miss Francis Curtis of Charlestown, O., January 7, 1872. He is a member of the F. M. C. Mr. C. L. Yates was born in Dryden, Tompkins county, September 29, 1833. He learned the carpenter and joiners trade when quite young and worked at it five years; also worked as a millwright, and conducted a grist mill at Hartford, Cortland county; also built a grist mill in the town of Triangle, Broome county, moving to Oxford in 1891, where he conducted the roller mills for five years. He was married to Elizabeth Benedict at Slaterville, Tompkins county, July 10, 1857.

Kirchner & Johnson, three years ago opened the quarry they have since conducted on East Hill near the O. & W. depot, where they found a vein of the best sandstone for flagging, running in thickness from one to eight inches. They began to take out stone of any size from flags to platforms, the seams running evenly so that the stones are true and have a smooth surface. It was found that the firm had an inexhaustible supply for curbing, coping and all kinds of building, and that they were able to take large or small contracts by which they could produce and lay flags for walks or platforms. This quarry lies between the O. & W. and the Lackawanna railroads, and by reason of short hauls the firm save considerable that would otherwise have to come from the pockets of their consumers. A. E. Kirchner has lived in Oxford seven years, being a native of Troy. He is a pharmacist by profession. C. H. Johnson is a practical quarryman and takes personal charge of getting out the stone, while his partner has charge of the business generally, selling stone and making contracts for work.

Abdallah Star Stables, George W. Bates, superintendent. Almont was bred by B. F. Edwards, of Chicago, Ill. Sire, Mammoth, 2052, full brother to Stanford's Piedmont, 2:17 $\frac{1}{4}$ , sold for \$27,500; by Almont, 33; he by Alexander's Abdallah, 15. Dam, Lady Sangamon, by Col. Wilbur's Hambletonian, by Rysdyk's Hambletonian 10. Almont started in a "green" race at Afton, with eighth position, in a field of nine horses, winning the race in straight heats. In the same stable are two direct granddaughters of Rysdyk's Hambletonian, by Knickerbocker, 200, and Barkis; a granddaughter of Smuggler, 2:15 $\frac{1}{4}$ , trotting champion from '76 to '84; colts by Wilkes Goldust, 2:23 $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sprague Goldust, 2:15 $\frac{1}{4}$ , greatest campaigner of 1889, driven by the veteran, Charley Green; also colts by good sons of Alcyone, 2:27. Stamboul, 2:07 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Sentinel, 2:30, and by Daniel Lambert.



"ALMONT."—Owned by John E. Miller.

**Birdseye of the County.**—Chenango county, centrally distant 94 miles from Albany, 200 miles from the nearest point on the Atlantic coast, and 60 miles from the shore of Lake Ontario, northwest of the interior of the State, is largely a dairy section, though hops are produced in great abundance. It contains over 500,000 square acres, and is forty miles long, with the maximum width of thirty-four miles. The towns comprised are Afton, Bainbridge, Columbus, Coventry, German, Greene, Guilford, Lincklaen, McDonough, New Berlin, North Norwich, Norwich, Otselic, Oxford, Pharsalia, Pitcher, Plymouth, Preston, Sherburne, Smithville, Smyrna. The county is broken by two low ranges of hills extending north and south, the head lands of the Alleghany mountains, attaining an elevation of 800 feet above the villages. The Susquehanna river flows across the northeast corner of the county, through the towns of Afton and Bainbridge. The Chenango river entering the northwest corner of the town of Sherburne flows generally in a southerly direction through that town and North Norwich, Norwich, Oxford and Greene. The Unadilla river, forming the greatest portion of the eastern boundary of the county, empties into the Susquehanna in the town of Bainbridge. Otselic creek flows across the north-

to Oxford. He was born at Greene, March 9, 1867, and on December 12, 1893, was married to Bertha A., the daughter of Oliver Mier, of Oxford. Mr. Taft is a member of the Red Men. He is greatly interested in fine horses, generally keeping a good team besides one or two for the track.

**The Riverside Wheelmen** (See page 44) was organized May 22, 1895, succeeding the Oxford Wheel Club, organized April 28, 1891. Officers and members: W. F. Powers, President; W. G. Austin, Vice-President; S. J. Morton, Secretary and Treasurer; Peter V. Newkirk, Captain; W. E. Gibbon, First Lieutenant; B. Hurlbert, Second Lieutenant; Earl D. Mack, Color Bearer; E. L. Walker, Bugler; J. B. Sherman, Second Bugler; L. E. Jones, H. A. Hunt, A. J. Hicks, Board of Directors; James Dunne, J. W. Harrington, A. D. Parker, James H. Hogan, A. C. Lewis, C. R. Gale, M. L. Whitney, John Hoag, John Coogan, Albert Hicks, Leland Saunders, George R. Stratton, G. W. Quackenbush, Fred R. Burke, J. M. Harrington, Charles A. Todd, Oren Thompson, John H. Byrne, Floyd Carpenter, L. D. Robinson. The club has pleasantly furnished rooms in the Van Der Lyn block. Once a year a racing team is chosen to compete in various events in the vicinity, the team this year being S. J. Morton, H. A. Hunt, J. M. Harrington, J. B. Sherman. Among those who have captured spoils on such occasions were Oren Thompson, a silver tea set at Greene and a pearl opera glass at Norwich; S. J. Morton, a clock at Afton; H. A. Hunt, a silver tea set in a road race at Greene and a silver water set at Norwich; J. M. Harrington, a clock and a coffee set at Delhi. Every Decoration Day the club makes a century run. There are not a few scorchers in the crowd, particularly W. E. Gibbon, John Coogan, Leland Saunders, Charles A. Todd and Oren Thompson. S. J. Morton is the local consul for the L. A. W.

**Impressions.**—The impressions made in a sojourn of less than one-half year in a town can not do the town justice. Yet my impressions of the beautiful village of Oxford have been favorable. The clean and well kept streets, the tidy and

attractive residences (scarcely an old rookery in the village), the beautiful and inviting parks (surpassed by no village of its size in the state), the interest manifested in education, the activity in business life, the advantages afforded to the surrounding country, and especially the brotherly kindness among the different churches, and the friendliness of the people as a whole,—all go to impress the stranger that Oxford is in nearly every respect an up-to-date town,—a very desirable place for those seeking a pleasant home, or a place to give their children the advantages of preparatory school.—J. H. LITTLE.

**Coasting and Skating.**—Oxford is a favorable place for coasting, the long, winding hill roads giving a clear descent in some cases of over a mile. Coasting bobs are quite the feature for winter fun. Among those owning, and who are expert in directing coasters down the long, steep hills surrounding Oxford are Robert E. Austin, Fred. Burke, Ed. Dunning, Seymour Fleming, Robert Randall and Earl Freeman. There is plenty of good skating on the Chenango river and a large number of famous skaters in Oxford, many of whom are graceful in cutting figures, while others are rapid in long-distance stretches.



THE HOTCHKISS HOUSE.

west corner of the county, through the towns of Otselic and Pitcher. The Geneganslet and the Canasawocta streams rise in the town of Pharsalia, the east branch of the latter in Otselic. The former flows in a south westerly direction through the towns of McDonough, Smithville and Greene, receiving the waters of the Balsom, Frye, Strong, Red, Ford and Indian creeks, all from the west and emptying into the Chenango river, three miles below the village of Greene. The Canasawocta flows east by southeast through the towns of Plymouth and Norwich, and empties into the Chenango river in the village of Norwich.

**R. W. Taft**, the proprietor of the Hotchkiss House, the leading hotel in Oxford, took possession March 25, 1895, and under his management the hotel has become popular with the traveling public, being the stopping place of most all of them. The house is nicely situated facing Lafayette Square, and is lighted with incandescent lights and provided with running water direct from a spring of pure water belonging to the hotel. A complete bar and pool room are connected with the house. Mr. Taft conducted the Commercial at Greene, two years before coming



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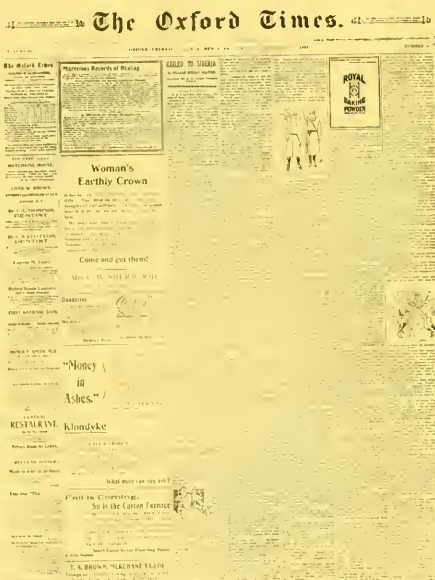
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